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Frank P. Martin House
10

Photo: Jeff O'Brien

Cover: The first converted loft in the downtown Drinkle building. Photo: Heather Fritz

HOME Front



Photo of Amanda Soulodre by Kevin Greggain

I always get a little autumnly twinge at this time of year. Sometimes it surfaces around June 21 when the days start getting shorter. But how can melancholy last when this is the season of vegetable and fruit canning and preserving? The bustling harvests going on all around our city? (Let me just say, I drive a pretty mean grain truck at my family farm near Alvena.)

We love our hometown a lot in this issue. The obvious is the seasonal colour, and a local couple shows us how they show off the best hues fall can offer. As for the business end of pretty trees, read about the tussle between roots and sewer lines. We've got a piece about ethnic roots, too. Our resident foodie Craig takes us into the welcoming kitchen of Baba Nadine as she casts her perogie magic and reveals her legendary recipe to our readers. We also look at a refreshing new take on interior décor—upscale prairie—which draws inspiration from hometown roots, our living skies and landscapes.

For more unexpected treasures, antique dealers Orest and Marion Murawsky say their biggest surprise is the treasure they find locally, putting a pause on the buying trips they planned to the U.S. and Europe. Local musician Dave Cummine reveals how he saves musical gems by repurposing them in fascinating ways.

Dave Denny, owner of the historic Drinkle building, and design consul-

tant Sherry Opdahl celebrate downtown Saskatoon with a renovation that channels a European feel through and through. Read about the newest infill guidelines to see what might be showing up on an empty lot near you. One such structure might be like the first of its kind in Saskatchewan—with bones of steel—going up this fall on Temperance Street. And you'll recognize the duplex heritage property on Saskatchewan Crescent; learn about its surprising connection to the University Bridge and many other iconic buildings in our city. Our history buff Jeff also has a timely look at the changing neighbourhood populations of ghosts and goblins.

Autumn; drink it in while you can. Remember, leaves don't turn from green to yellow. Instead, beautiful green diminishes to reveal a glorious golden hue that was there all along. There are so many layers to appreciate in our city and in the bounty that is ours right here in Saskatoon.

Happy reading!

AMANDA SOULODRE
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HOME

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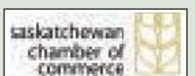
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Thank You To Our Fall Issue Reader Panel



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*Marketing Director,
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How the Reader Panel Works

#1

The publisher sends each panel member a number of story ideas.

#2

Each panel member rates the ideas from most interesting to least interesting.

#3

The answers from all six panel members are cross referenced.

#4

The highest rated stories are selected, and our writers and photographers are then assigned to bring those stories to life.

#5

For each issue, a new panel of 6 volunteers is selected.

Interested in being on a future panel? Email: amanda@saskatoon-home.ca with 'Reader Panel' in the subject line.

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ASHLEIGH MATTERN



VOX DEVELOPMENTS

CHANGES TO INFILL GUIDELINES

New Regulations Set

The City of Saskatoon has been working to bring in regulations for infill housing since 2012 and, as of March, the city is one step closer to meeting this goal.

New regulations set the maximum size of a house to be built in an established neighbourhood. This regulation does not have one set of numbers, but instead uses

a formula that regulates the length and the height of the sidewalls based on the size of the lot. Before these development standards were set, there were few regulations for the size of infill houses.

Additionally, in pre-war neighbourhoods, 25-foot lots are now allowed. Regulations have also been set for the height of the front door,

and for permitting porches to extend into the required front yard.

These new rules are in addition to the regulations for garage and garden suites set in 2014 (see our Fall 2014 issue online for this story). City staff are still working on regulations for three and four-unit dwellings on corner sites, and site drainage requirements,

which they hope to have in place for spring 2016.

"These changes were in response to community concerns about the way infill was impacting existing neighbourhoods," says Darryl Dawson, manager of the Development and Review section of Planning and Development at the City of Saskatoon.

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"The regulations we came out with were a balance that allows flexibility for infill developers, and encourages infill development, while providing some regulations that ensure the characters of existing neighbourhoods are maintained."

Throughout the process of introducing these new regulations, the City has consulted with the development industry and community members, being sure to address concerns as they moved forward. Darryl says he recognizes that this process has taken time, but he notes it's important to be thorough.

The City will be reviewing the impact of these new regulations, and reporting back to Council if any changes are needed, says Darryl.

"We're talking about regulations that have an impact on the homes that get built and the homes we live in. The time frame was needed to ensure we had a solid consultation."

We will be sure to follow these changes along the way, and keep HOME readers posted. For additional information you can contact the Planning and Development department. 

Ashleigh Mattern

TIMELINE: CHANGES TO INFILL REGULATIONS

- Dec. 2012: Public consultations and community advisory committee meetings begin.
- Dec. 2013: City Council endorses the infill development strategy.
- March 2014: Implementation plan approved.
- May 2014: Garden and garage suites regulations set.
- March 2015: Infill size regulations set, plus additional regulations for pre-war neighbourhoods.
- Coming in 2016: Regulations for drainage, and for three- and four-unit dwellings on corner sites.



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FRANK P. MARTIN HOUSE

A Look Inside a Landmark



As houses go, the duplex at 716 and 718 Saskatchewan Crescent is a little unusual. The mere fact that it's a duplex—something of a rarity for an up-market house built in 1926—makes it stand out, as

do the attached garages, which are something else you didn't see very often in 1926. Except for the entranceways, the two sides are near mirror images of each other, and the steeply-sloped, double-dormered roof,

the lattice windows and gothic doorways make for an architecturally striking exterior.

Structurally, it has a number of rather quirky design elements. For example, instead of timber framing, the foot-

thick exterior walls are made of hollow, interlocking, T-shaped terra cotta blocks, stuccoed on the outside and lined with lath and plaster on the inside. The basement extends only under the kitchen, where instead of



 **JEFF O'BRIEN**

Photo: Kathlyn Szalasnyj

lumber it has steel trusses for joists, supporting the three-inch concrete slab that makes up the floor above. In addition to the usual concrete foundations, forms used for pilings salvaged from the construc-

tion of the University Bridge were used to build a sub-foundation consisting of 16-foot piles supporting foot-thick fir beams upon which the regular foundations rest.

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Dave Edwards, owner of unit 718, muses on the original house plans, given to him by previous duplex owner Ron Marken.

Photo: Jeff O'Brien



Steel-truss joists in the basement support the kitchen floor, above.

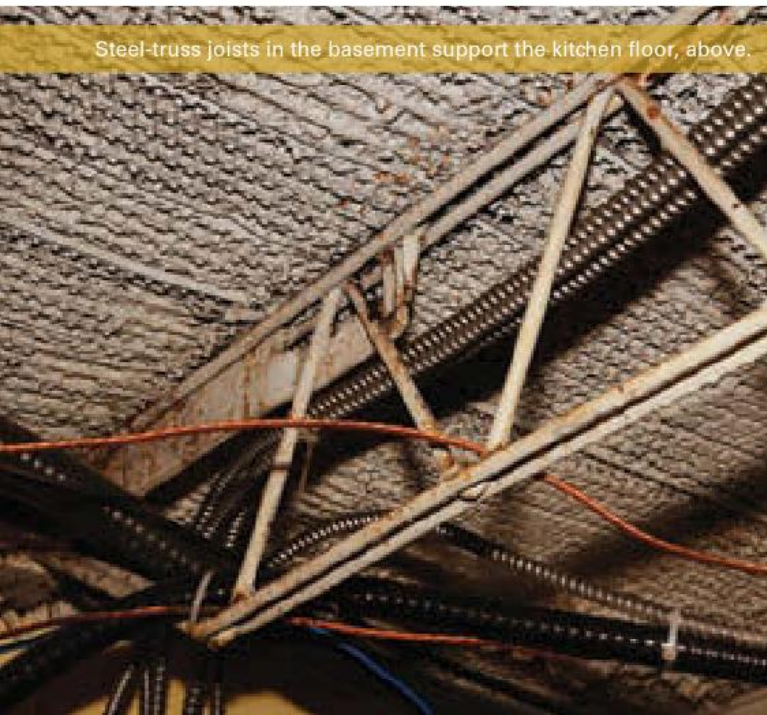


Photo: Jeff O'Brien

Frank P. Martin, an Englishman who came to Saskatoon from Ontario in 1909. One of Saskatchewan's foremost architects, his work in Saskatoon included everything from gas stations to warehouses and downtown offices to schools, many of which still stand. He designed Bedford Road and City Park Collegiates and the School for the Deaf (nowadays the R.J.D. Williams Building near the University) and was

responsible for a slew of elegant and beautiful houses, a number of which are today recognized for their heritage status.

Upon building, Martin and his family lived in the west half of the duplex, at 716 Saskatchewan Crescent East. After he died in 1931, his wife, Clara, lived there until her death in 1962. The other half, at 718 Saskatchewan Crescent East, saw a succession of ➤

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Inside the front room on 716 side of the duplex (right side).

Photo: Scott Prokop



Inside the front room on 718 side of the duplex (left side).

Photo: Jeff O'Brien



One of the few photos of Frank P. Martin in existence. He has a place in Saskatoon's history as a renowned architect.

Photo: Courtesy Joan Baltzan

tenants until 1949, when Frank Martin Jr.—also an architect—moved in. After his mother died, he moved into her half of the building and lived there until his death in 1993, after which the two homes were sold.

Under the new owners, the house and grounds underwent a substantial restoration using specifications from the original 1926 architectural drawings. Modern windows designed to match the original were installed, as were new boilers for the heating system. The cast-iron radiators were sandblasted and refinished, the floors were re-done and the house re-plumbed and re-wired. New bathroom fixtures and kitchen cabinets were also installed. In 1997 it was declared a municipal heritage property, winning a heritage award the following year, and in 2006 it was listed

on the Canadian Historic Places registry.

In 2007, Dave and Carol Edwards moved into 718 Saskatchewan Crescent East. Dave is also an architect, and they had always wanted an older, character home. But there were changes to be made. Every inch of the house inside was white: every wall, every door and cabinet, every bit of balustrade, casing and baseboard. So the first order of business was the gruelling task of completely stripping the whole interior. In re-finishing it they went with an "Arts and Crafts" style of decoration, including a predominantly earth-toned colour palette, the generous use of natural wood and solid, comfortable furniture. The result is a deliciously soft warmth to every room.

They completely re-designed the kitchen, putting in a ➤

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Frank P. Martin's house in the late 1920s.



Photo: Local History Room – Saskatoon Public Library – 2005-254-1

huge granite countertop and beautiful stainless steel appliances. The living room boasts a large brick fireplace dominating one wall, flanked by new glass-fronted cabinets made from quarter-sawn oak—again in the Arts and Crafts tradition. The fireplace mantle is trimmed with slate taken from blackboards salvaged from the Gathercole Building (originally the Saskatoon Technical Institute, which Frank P. Martin also designed) after it was demolished in 2004. New sconce lights and a plate rail decorate the opposite wall. The job took months to complete, but the result was clearly worth it.

Frank P. Martin came to Saskatoon in the hopes that our dry climate would ➤

University of Saskatchewan professor Ron Marken and Patti Marken, a nurse, bought both sides of the duplex in 1996. They moved into 716, rented 718, and eventually sold that side. Fascinated by the history, the Markens had the building declared a municipal heritage property in 1997, and it won a heritage award in 1998. In 2006, it was listed on the Canadian Historic Places registry. In 2015, the Markens sold 716 to the current owner.



Photo: Jeff O'Brien



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Inside the dining room on 716 side of the duplex (right side).

Photo: Scott Prokop

provide some relief from the asthma that had plagued him his whole life. Instead, on the evening of December 1, 1931, while packing for a winter vacation in the southern states, he was overcome by a sudden attack, and died. At only 49 years of age, he was not old, not even for 1931. But his legacy lives on, in the buildings he designed, in the city he helped create and in this beautiful house overlooking the river—built as a duplex so as to provide a source of income for his wife in the event of his untimely death. (H)

Jeff O'Brien



Inside the dining room on 718 side of the duplex (left side).

Photo: Jeff O'Brien

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UPSCALE PRAIRIE DESIGN

Calm and Comforting with a Hint of Contemporary

Property stylist Shannon Weber didn't set out to create a new approach to interior décor when she hit on "upscale prairie." She just wanted to celebrate her love of the grasslands, the beau-

tiful colours in the landscape, open spaces and living skies and the friendly people who call this home. Palm Springs, New York and Miami Beach are fine, but Shannon's passion means pride of place, and

that place is firmly rooted in Saskatchewan.

Shannon, owner of In Fine Order, had a blank slate in the sold-out Saskatoon 2015 STARS lottery home, and chose to use this home as

an example of Prairie Design done well. She had some very specific ways to pay homage to her Saskatoon birthplace. It was something she felt would appeal to those who choose to live here, a way ➤



While some shine adds a contemporary look, the designer relies on lots of natural light to bring the outside in.

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interior spaces could honour the landscape outside.

"I love Saskatoon. My grandparents farmed; my dad still does. I spent a lot of my childhood on the farm near Wilkie. I have wonderful memories of our cabins at Jackfish Lake and Atton's Lake," says Shannon. "As a real estate stager, I want to create beautiful and modern homes, but also ones that are comfortable and approachable. Not glitzy glam, not pretentious. But a place you feel welcomed."

Drawing Inspiration at Home

While people might have yearned for things "elsewhere" in the past, now being Canadian—and specifically prairie people—is a coveted bragging right. In art, music and literature, the prairie is a place from which to draw inspiration. For too long, novels seemed based somewhere else, as if the author was almost afraid to admit a good story could be set here instead of a big American city or even rural United States. For Shannon, it's like a breath of fresh air.

"There is fabulous work from prairie artists here, and that confidence and pride about where we live is something I wanted to capture in this décor," she says. "I have so many beautiful things to choose from, and I use all local artists who have a fresh, ➤



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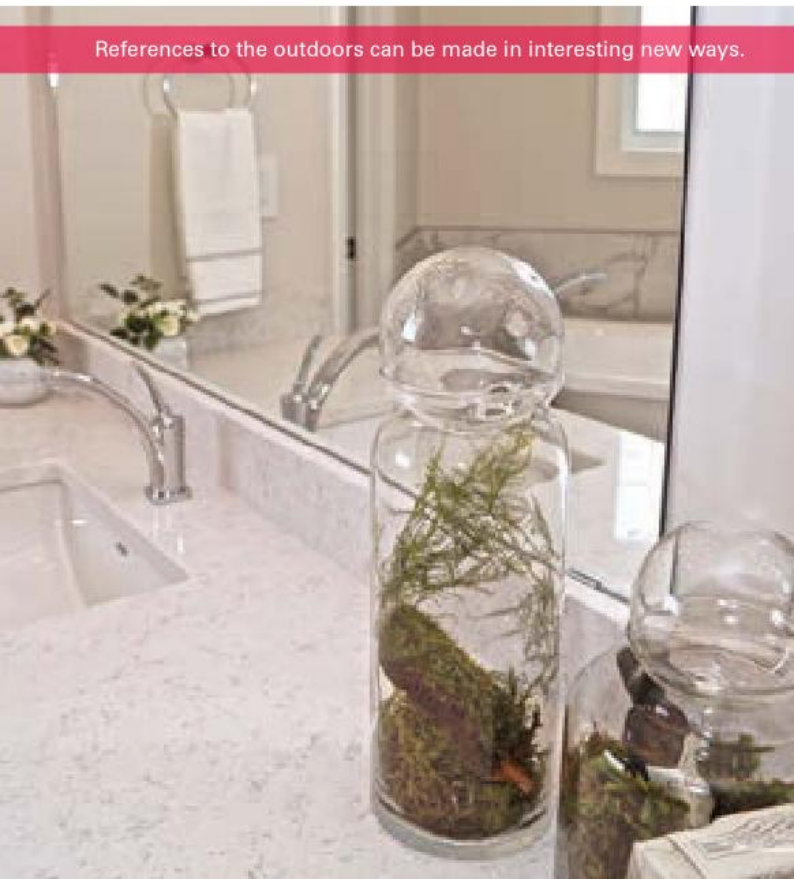
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different approach to familiar subjects." To reference Shannon's prairie style, art doesn't have to be traditional images of wheat fields to make the cut. Even a new perspective on the beauty in buildings past their prime deserved attention in her most recent project.

Taking a Different View

"We have a series of photos called 'Rural Decay' by Hans Holtkamp that are quite beautiful, with close up detail and stunning colour. We used a photo of an iconic grain elevator taken from an unusual perspec-

tive that makes the image very modern, almost abstract." Take what is usual for us to see on the prairies, says Shannon, but do a twist on it so it's more interesting, more modern.

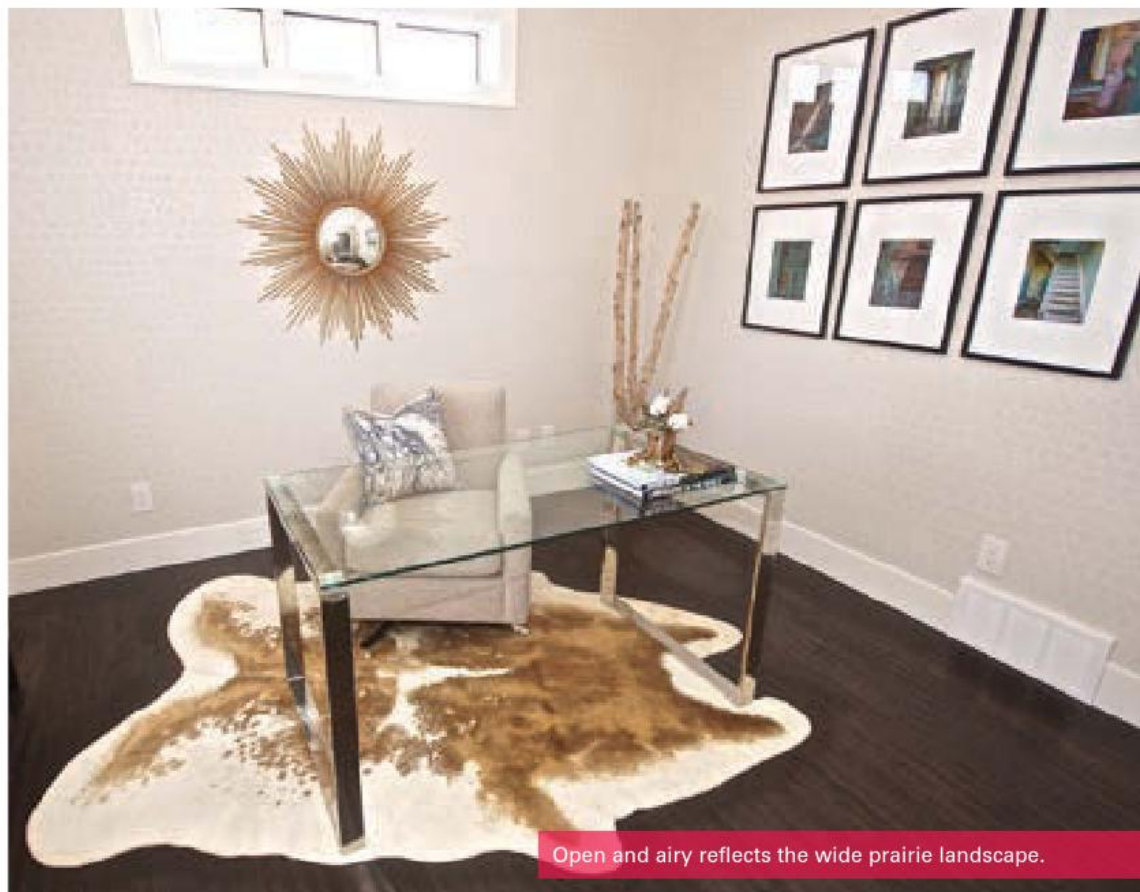
"This is not a traditional 'country' décor," Shannon explains. You won't find oak, checkered tablecloths, quilts or frilly kitchen curtains here. But that being said, Shannon points out that part of her intent is to connect with who we are and were we're from. If you adore grandmother's wonderful maple sideboard, then by all means incorporate

it. "But," she adds, "also do something unexpected with what you set on it or perhaps in the artwork you hang over it." Give it a contemporary twist.

"I'm drawn to mid-century modern with its clean, simple lines, neutral and understated wall colours and coverings. Upscale prairie is very contemporary, with white quartz countertops, and crisp white cabinets. The light fixtures are simple. I do use a little chrome, but you won't find much glitter. It's a comfortable style and you're never far away from the prairie. There are many references to prairie where we connect to nature throughout."

Taking the time to think twice and buy once is more likely to result in a lasting look.

"If you choose things you love that are well made, and choose more expensive pieces in neutral shades and simple shapes, they will endure," ➤



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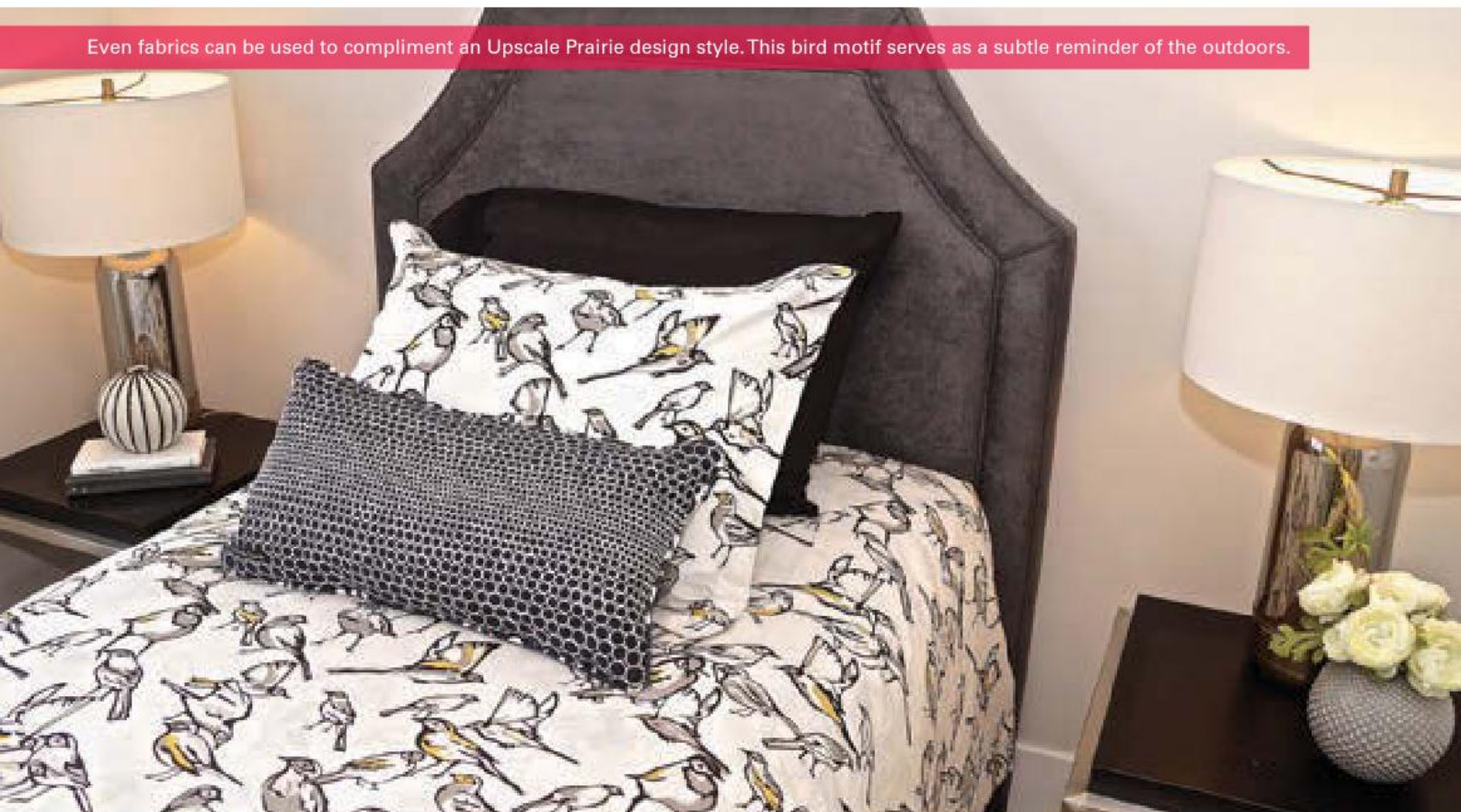


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Even fabrics can be used to compliment an Upscale Prairie design style. This bird motif serves as a subtle reminder of the outdoors.



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Shannon advises. "You can add the interest less expensively by changing out items that add the colour. I believe prairie people spend their money carefully, waiting until they can afford good quality so it can stand the test of time."

Prairie Cooperation

Another equally important element to Shannon's upscale prairie is in the way it all comes together when she decorates a home. Reminiscent of the pitch-in barn raisings or threshing crews, ➤

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the spirit of cooperation is a hallmark of Shannon's work.

"Using the work of local artists, having pieces of furniture custom made by craftspeople here in Saskatoon and shopping at independent businesses and engaging with owners on a project is important. Even the work to stage a home is a family and friends affair for me," Shannon says. "It's the prairie way. My grandparents

and parents taught me that. I grew up watching them helping their neighbours, and I want to pass along that ethic to my children. The prairie style isn't just how I make my homes look, but it's preserving that pride about being from here. You should wake up every day loving this place, your home and knowing this is where you belong." 

Karin Melberg Schwier



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- Avoid too much glossy shine and sparkle or anything overly formal like crystal chandeliers.
- Embrace the abundant sunshine. Create a light, bright home using a soft, warm neutral backdrop (Farrow & Ball's colour 'Ammonite' carried by Braid Flooring is a favourite) and crisp white trim. Select colours that speak to our surroundings for a natural transition from the out-of-doors to inside. Layer in more blues, greys, greens and the mustard yellow of our landscape. Include woody, earth tones.
- Tell the story of your connection to this province and the outdoors. Use photos of your family at the cabin, but display them with a twist. Instead of just an ordinary frame, use a small black and white print in an oversized frame with a large white mat. Pussy willows and branches also work well to set this mood.
- Shop local. Give your business to the pioneers who have worked hard to establish success in our cities and province. Select good quality, locally made and Canadian-made products.
- Incorporate the work of prairie artists who produce pieces that honour our landscape and iconic prairie symbols. To keep the look current and interesting, seek a modern take on classic images.



This series by Hans Holtkamp, 'Rural Decay,' touches on the pioneering era of the prairies in a non-traditional, yet beautiful way.



KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER



HEATHER FRITZ

EUROPEAN STYLE LOFT

With a Minimalist Historic Vibe

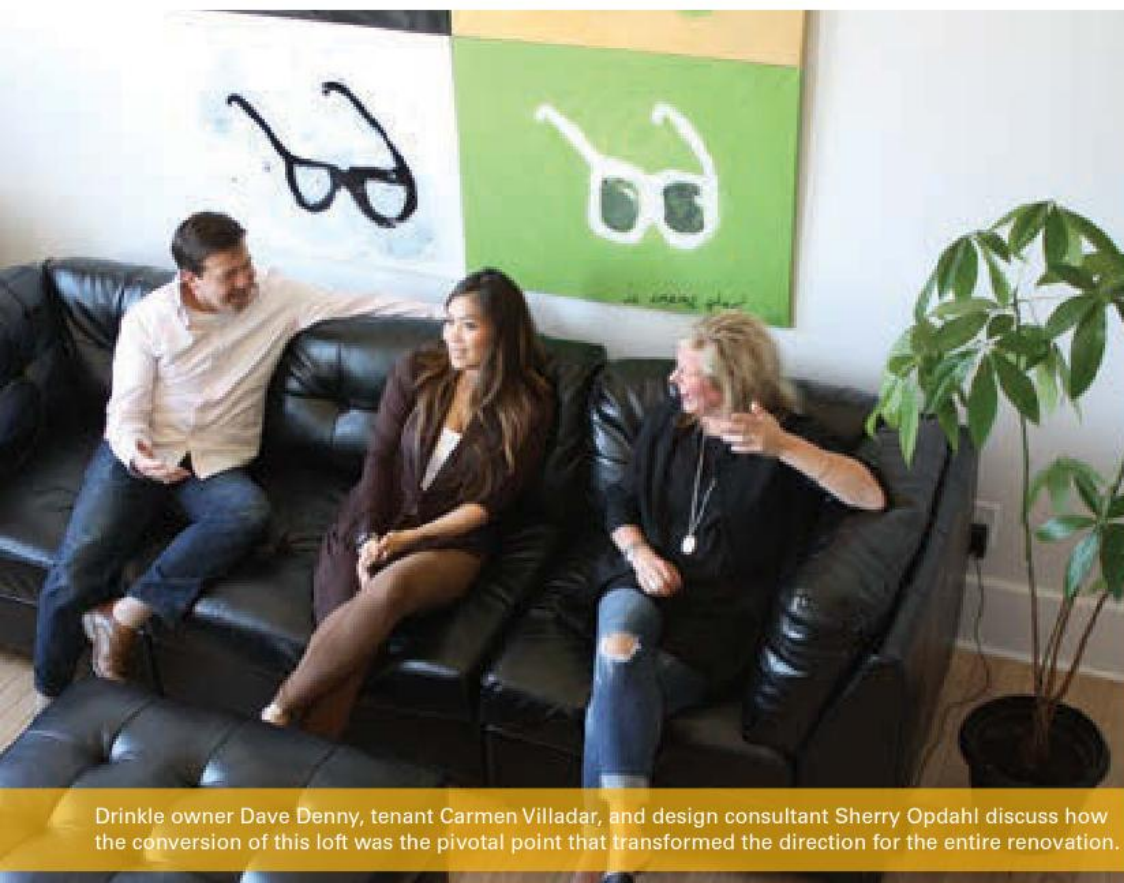
For Carmen Villadar, there's nothing better than the 540 square feet she calls home. As someone who's lived in Toronto, Houston and Frankfurt, her micro-loft in the historic Drinkle building on Third Avenue is spacious and

affordable. Her commute to work—she's a social media consultant—is a three-minute elevator ride to a co-work office space. There is 10,000 square feet of rooftop with a deck space for gardens and entertaining, and shops on the

basement mall level. The icing on the cake is that Carmen's apartment is the first of 60 that Drinkle owner Dave Denny and design consultant Sherry Opdahl are renovating to open the space, bring in more natural light and add heaps

of character in homage to the building's 100-year history.

Dave and his wife Genevieve Dessommes were living in her native New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina displaced them in 2005. While they waited to see what fate ➤



Drinkle owner Dave Denny, tenant Carmen Villadar, and design consultant Sherry Opdahl discuss how the conversion of this loft was the pivotal point that transformed the direction for the entire renovation.

Photo: Karin Melberg Schwier

would bring, Dave, a Saskatoon boy, found an online for sale ad for the Drinkle building, then known as Regent Plaza. They bought it, along with a sight-unseen heritage home in the city.

Office-Turn-Apartments

The office building, built in 1913 by real estate mogul John Drinkle, had been turned into apartments long before; previous owner Dale Beavis renovated all 60 in the 1980s. Dropped ceilings were popular then and today, lowered ceilings are visible from the outside, covering the top portion of large windows. Original lath and plaster walls were kept, but the electrical and plumbing were upgraded. When Dave bought, "it was a real mixture of 100-year-old footprint with an 80s redo."

Dave's plan is to maximize on the European "micro-loft"



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feel of the apartments, and has spent two years getting the planning and design right for the first conversion. The original 12-foot height ceiling was restored and the full windows revealed. Walls were knocked out to open the space. A clever floor plan, furniture placement and salvaged materials create a combo of steampunk and repurposed chic.

Design consultant Sherry Opdahl of Atrous Consulting loves the minimalist approach to the project. This minimalist look, combined with the exposed brick, and original

details, gives the space a definite European loft vibe that is very charming.

Organic Design Process

"Dave and I talked at a dinner over a year ago, and the process has been quite organic," she says. "A lot of our design has come out of pieces Dave and builder Dan Isbister had salvaged, like original Eaton's doors, vintage SaskTel ladders, old wooden railway dunnage and the original birch flooring. We're building a unique footprint and maximizing the vertical space." ➤

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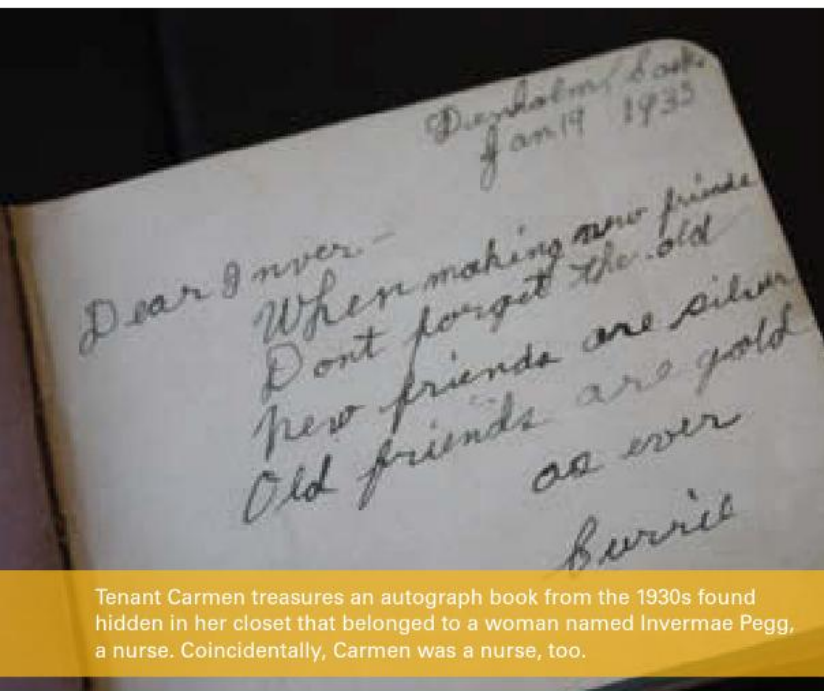
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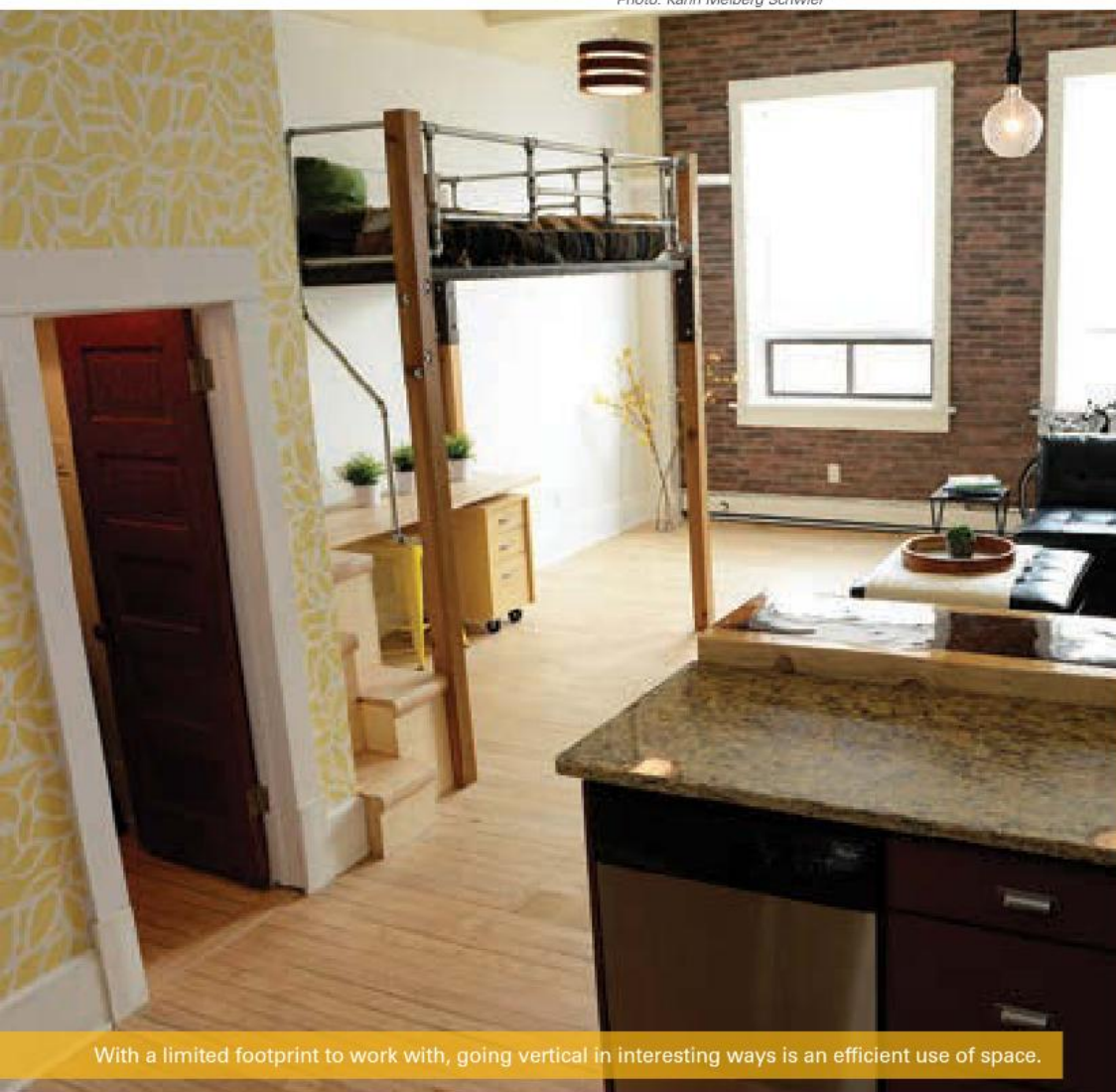
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Tenant Carmen treasures an autograph book from the 1930s found hidden in her closet that belonged to a woman named Invermae Pegg, a nurse. Coincidentally, Carmen was a nurse, too.

Photo: Karin Melberg Schwiier



With a limited footprint to work with, going vertical in interesting ways is an efficient use of space.

A loft with an open area beneath allows for a raised bedroom or office area. The Murphy bed concept can be adapted so that a bed can disappear during the day. A recessed dining table can be pulled out only when needed to keep the living area open and free of clutter. Dave and Sherry have collected ideas on hardware and pulley systems to lift bikes or even furniture out of the way when not in use. With only so much real estate to work with, the idea of using up premium space to store items doesn't fly. In fact, Dave and Sherry agree that the people who are attracted to a micro-loft are embracing a simpler lifestyle.

Embracing Decluttered, Minimalist Space

"We've been living in an indulgent time," says Sherry. "We're encouraged to buy, but then it doesn't give us the feeling of contentment we wanted, so we buy more, and it becomes a vicious cycle. When people get into a smaller space like this, it forces them to



A 'garage door' hides storage space close to ceiling height in the loft.

purge those things that weigh them down." Decluttered space is a reflection of the less is more idea, and people begin to realize that living more simply

is "very freeing."

For the past 18 years, there's been a zero vacancy rate in the Drinkle. Plans to redo the rest of the spaces will happen ➤

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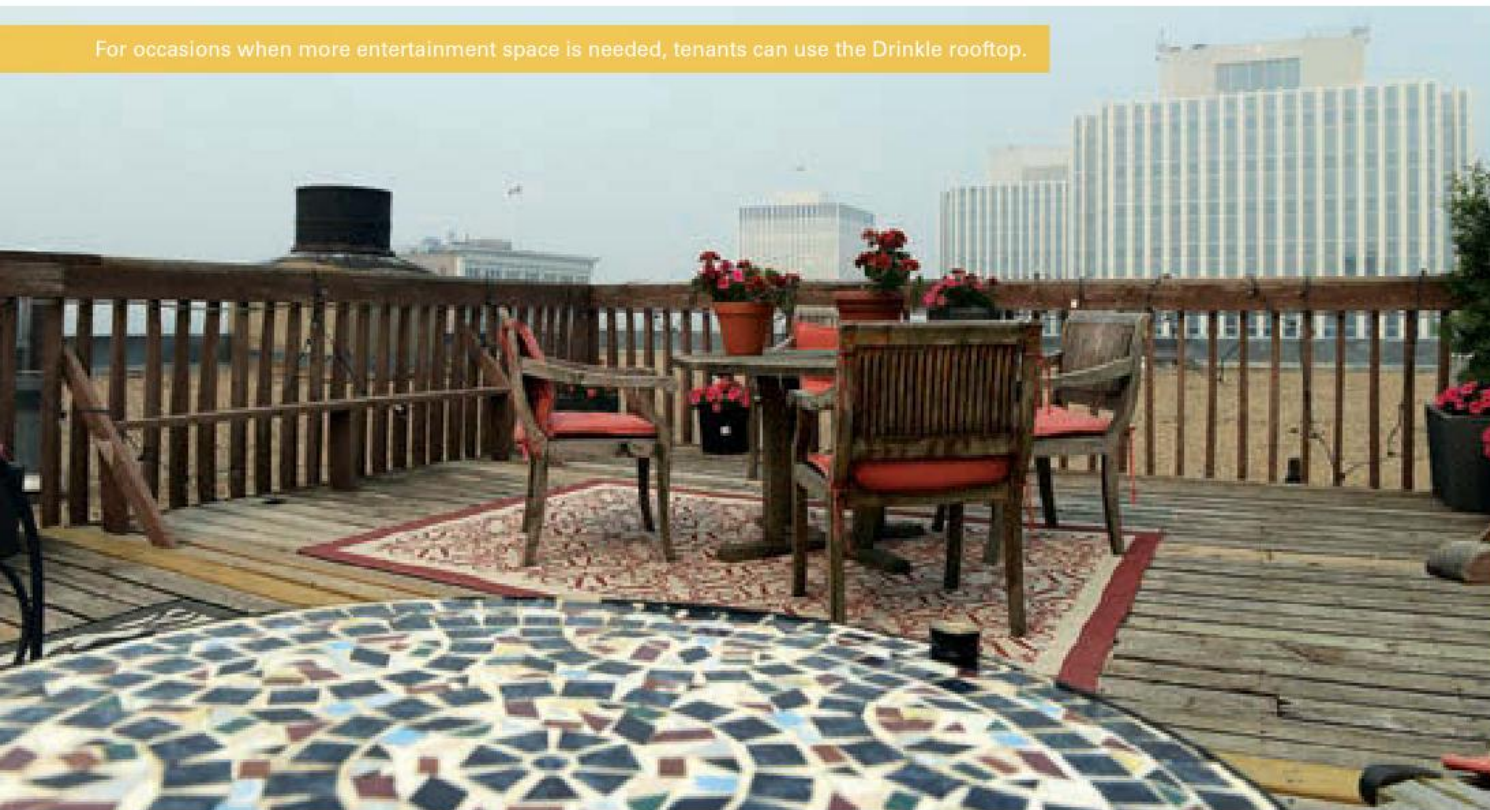


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For occasions when more entertainment space is needed, tenants can use the Drinkle rooftop.



over time when a tenant moves, or when unit maintenance is required. Ideally, three units will be converted at a time once the three design choices are finalized.

"We're an apartment building in the heart of downtown. These aren't condos, so we fill a niche for those who want to live in an attractive location, but they don't want to buy," says Dave. "We've always had seniors, people who don't want to drive. But we're attracting more young

people now who want to live that city centre lifestyle."

For Carmen, being in the heart of small city in a "gorgeous loft" gives her everything she needs. And, she says, "I don't need much."

"I was living in another apartment, but when Dave showed me what they were doing with this new design, I just begged him to let me be the first one to move in. This is palatial compared to the micro-lofts in Europe or other big cities," she says. "It's

an easy walk to great cafes and the farmer's market is close. It's four minutes to the mall, to my hair stylist. I get my bubble tea near by.

I use the co-work office space in the building. It's flexible, beautiful and affordable. It's perfect." 

Karin Melberg Schwier

CLICK FOR HISTORY LESSON

To learn about the Drinkle building, visit the Saskatoon HOME website and click on Read Online/Back Issues. Find the Spring 2015 issue and flip to page 39. City archivist Jeff O'Brien tells the tale of *Drinkle No. 3: The Real Estate Gamble of 1913*.

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*"Autumn is a second spring
when every leaf is a flower."*
– Albert Camus

PLANNING FOR FALL COLOUR

Thoughtful Landscape Design Offers Autumn Splendor

When Tony and Colleen Yeager drive home after a workday in the city, especially in the fall, they often put aside for a little while the demands of busy lives to admire their handiwork. Taking a moment to drink in the autumn land-

scape surrounding their River's Edge home is precious time well spent.

When Tony, an engineer, and Colleen, an accountant, bought a parcel of land in 1997 about 20 kms from Saskatoon's city centre, they had a budding plan

about transforming four acres of alfalfa field into a breathtaking landscape. In 1998, they started planting trees. Every season has its charm, but to make the most of each, some research helps.

The Plan

Think about seasons, colours, textures and maintenance first, Tony says.

"We used a landscape architect and we found that really useful. Certainly, you want to do your research first. You don't



 **KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER**
 **CINDY MOLESKI PHOTOGRAPHY**

want to be planting on a large scale and then realize you've made mistakes," Tony says.

Trustworthy advice from nursery staff where they purchased their trees, shrubs and flowers is also useful. Details on size, colours and

tending required helps with decisions about what will work on a particular property.

When making planting decisions, practicality often wins out, says Colleen.

"Honestly, we don't think about what the butterflies

or bees would like. We think about what's going to survive," she insists. "You learn to walk by the pretty hydrangeas and roses that might do well on a city lot, but just aren't going to cut it on an acreage. Lilies are tough. Most of our shrubs are prairie hardy ninebark or spirea. If the tag doesn't say 'good to -40,' just don't buy it. On this large scale, you just can't afford to buy things that you have to baby along or keep replacing."

For those who have been through it, this is good advice

for in-town selections too, since sometimes exotic trees and shrubs don't make it to the next year.

Water and Wind

A major acreage priority was irrigation. Tests confirmed good well water before the Yeagers even purchased the property.

"It was also important to have good drainage," Tony says. "We were fortunate that the land had a slight slope to it so we were able to enhance that by putting a small creek bed through the middle of it." ➤



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Amur Maple and Autumn Gold Ash (left of house). The maple has green leaves late in the summer but the seeds turn a very bright red. The ash are highlight trees to provide shelter for the deck.



Manchurian Ash at right. These line the driveway to suggest a long winding lane with an Asian look and brilliant yellow in the fall.



Wind is a major nemesis. "In the country, it's important to have a windbreak so we planted towering poplar and Scots pine right after we bought the place."

The Palette

For Tony and Colleen, it was important to layer species and varieties that showed off their blooms and colours in different seasons for an ongoing display.

"Our Amur and silver maples are the two best for reds in the fall," says Tony. "Firebush is also a good shrub that turns bright red. For yellows, we have different types of ash,

birch and poplars. Lilacs turn a darker purple." Ninebark and spirea shrubs move from greens and purples to showy yellows, oranges and reds in the fall. Lilies continue to ➤

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Tony, Colleen and Kurt Yeager (right to left) enjoying the sights and smells of fall. Dogwood shrubs, pine trees and towering poplar, facing east. The dogwoods provide an inner ring of shelter around the fire pit. Hawthorn, poplar and pine trees provide additional protection.

bloom into the autumn.

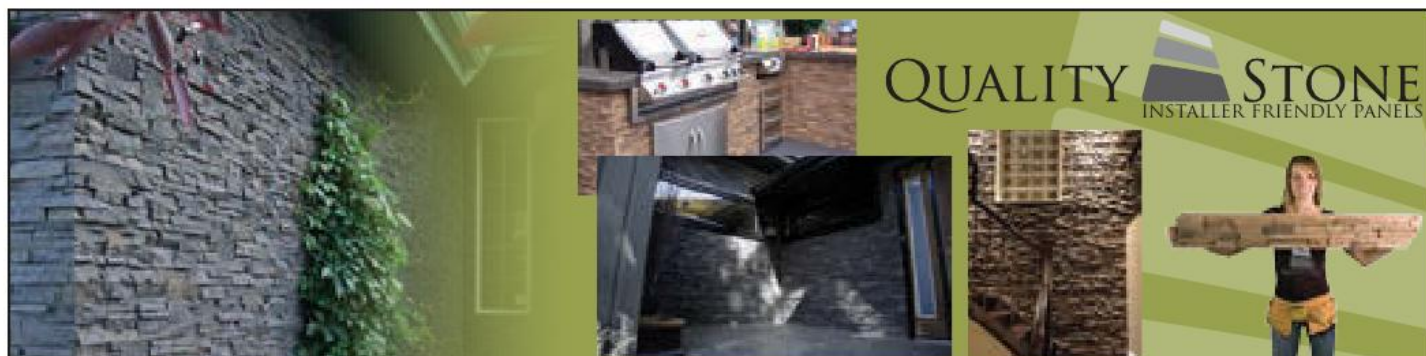
Each season produces unique textures, shape and colour. There's a large garden,

and the Yeagers put in apple, cherry, plum, raspberries and strawberries.

The Grandeur Scale

"On an acreage, everything's on a macro level," Tony explains. "You just can't do the small

detail you can on a city lot. You simply have to do everything on a bigger scale and you need to rely on perennials of various



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Amur Maple with its red fall foliage.

sorts. Putting in the number of annuals it would take to have any sort of impact every year would simply be too time consuming and too expensive."

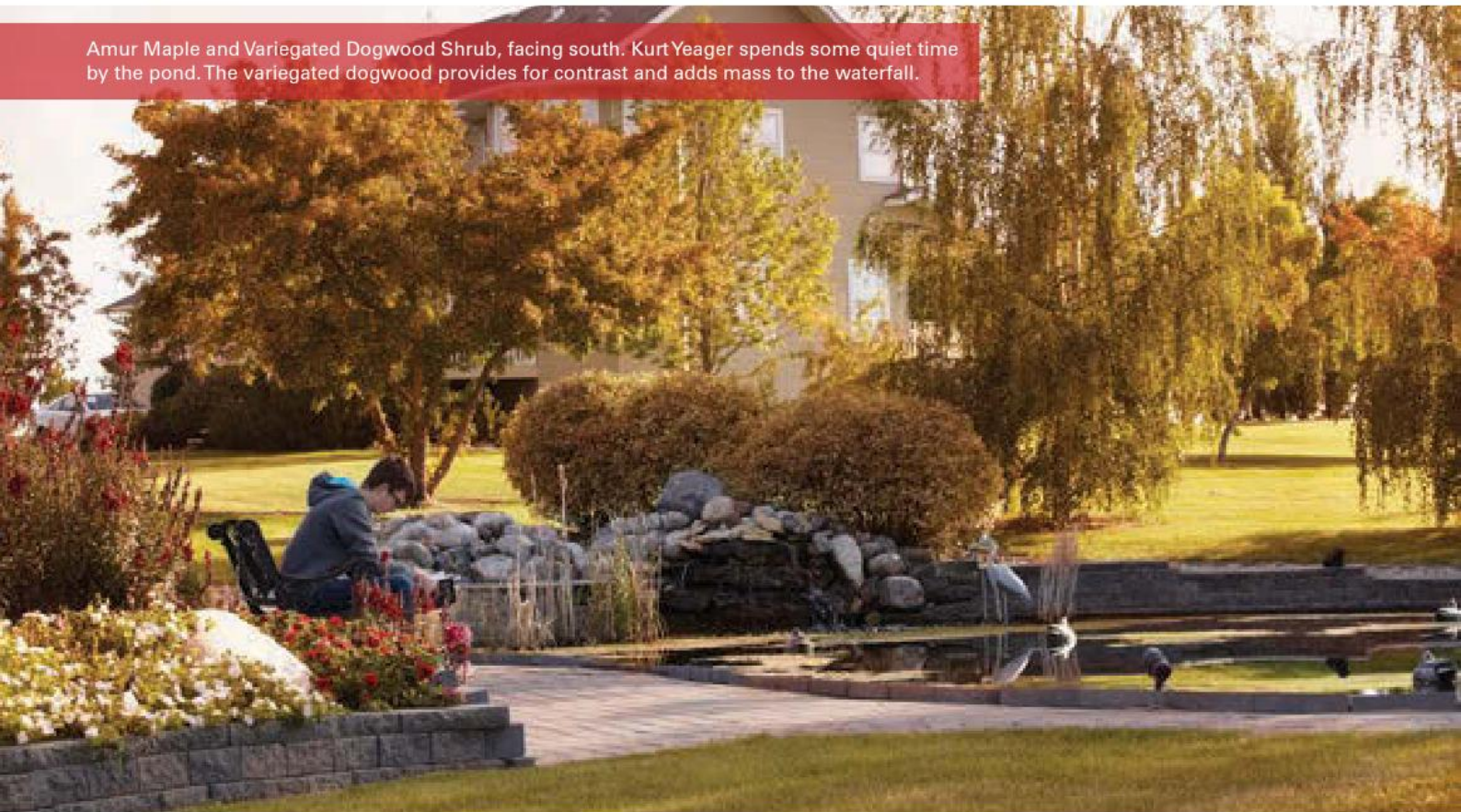
Tending trees, shrubs and flowerbeds is a little like having pets. A homeowner must invest the time and energy in the care and upkeep. But for people like Tony and Colleen, that chore is a welcome respite from careers that come with hours connected to technology.

"We both have farming backgrounds and now we both have jobs where we sit behind computer screens," Tony ➤

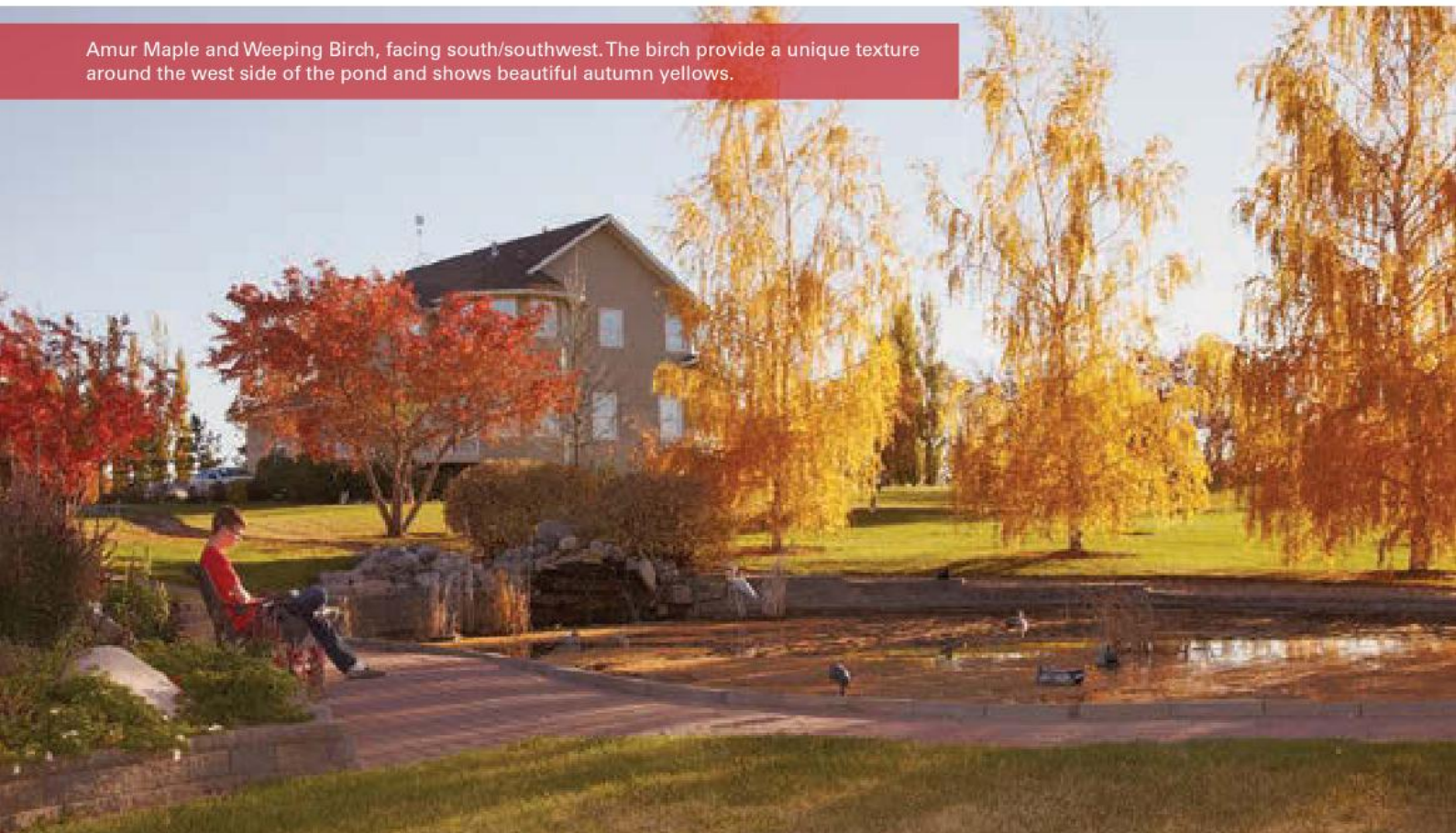


Amur Maple. The shrub, along with the fruit trees, form a partial circle separating an inner and outer yard.

Amur Maple and Variegated Dogwood Shrub, facing south. Kurt Yeager spends some quiet time by the pond. The variegated dogwood provides for contrast and adds mass to the waterfall.



Amur Maple and Weeping Birch, facing south/southwest. The birch provide a unique texture around the west side of the pond and shows beautiful autumn yellows.





Apple, facing west. The orchard features four types of apple as well as two plum, seven sour cherry, raspberries and strawberries. The fruit trees help shelter the garden.

says. "So we both very much enjoy getting outside and getting into the dirt. There's pruning, weeding and tending, but we find it very enjoyable and even therapeutic."

A Soothing Oasis

Tony, Colleen and their three children—Caitlin, Brett and Kurt, along with their dog Tobi—all enjoy the open spaces and the burst of fall colours. At the end of a long day, coming home to a serene park-like setting, no matter what season of the year, has its cathartic effect on everyone in the family.

"Fall is my favourite season," says Colleen. "It does catch you by surprise. You suddenly notice the colours, usually in the maples or ash along the driveway because they're such drama queens. They're the last to leaf out and they're golden in the fall. You have to ➤

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Towering Poplar, facing east. Selected for the shelterbelt, and bright yellow hue.



appreciate them quickly. As soon as it gets cold, they just drop. Instantly. You can stand out there on the day and it's just raining leaves. It's really something to experience."

"There's certainly a feeling of accomplishment for all the planning and effort we put in, especially in the fall when all the colours are at their height," Tony says. "During the regular routine of family life, we do have to remind ourselves to walk around and take things in. No matter what time of year."

Now that the planting project is 17 years along, Colleen agrees that taking time to appreciate the yard has to be a deliberate pause in the midst of work and family life.

"It's almost like you don't think about it until people come to visit. They ooo and ahhh and you think, wow, look what we did." 

Karin Melberg Schwier









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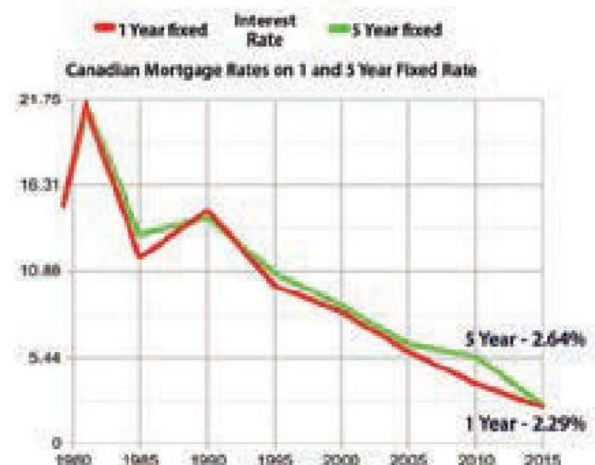
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STEEL FRAME CONSTRUCTION

Applied in a Residential Home

Just south of Saskatoon's Temperance Street Triangle, a new home is taking shape. Once complete, it will have a distinctive, modern appeal with its clean lines and expansive windows. Yet it's the bones of the home that make it truly unique.

Consisting of light steel framing, it's a style of construction that has some similarities with pre-engineered steel commercial buildings, but is still quite novel in residential applications. This particular home uses a patented system called BONE Structure, and the

house on Temperance is the first of its kind in Saskatchewan.

The Nuts and Bolts

"Your foundation is built the same way (as a wood-framed house)," says Brady Plett, project manager with Aspect Home Builders, an authorized

builder and assembler for BONE Structure. "You do your foundation forming and pour it, but you cast in anchor bolts. From there, the BONE Structure gets delivered. It comes in posts, beams and brackets."

All the parts arrive pre-drilled, pre-cut and stamped



In steel frame construction all pieces come pre-drilled, pre-cut and stamped by an engineer —comparable to a giant Lego set.

by an engineer. Brady equates the process to a Meccano or Lego set; all the pieces are prepped and ready with nothing extraneous. The only task is to assemble the parts accordingly.

Base plates attach to the anchor bolts and joists are installed in between. Next, the main floor columns are added, followed by the second floor joists, second floor columns and the roof joists. Once the primary steel is in place, the roof panels (also part of the

BONE Structure system) are attached. These panels are called structural insulated panels (SIPs). They consist of a 10-inch piece of rigid insulation sandwiched between two pieces of plywood. The panels interlock to form the roof system.

"Next, on your exterior walls, you take pieces of rigid insulation and you put them in between your columns. Over top of that, you spray foam (on the outside of the walls)," adds Brady. From there, ➤

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the drywall, exterior finishes and roofing are installed just as they would be on a wood-framed home.

Environmental Benefits

Applying the spray foam on the outside means there is no thermal transfer. "Everything is thermally divided so you don't have any heat transfer from outside to inside," says Brady. "Once you spray foam your walls and your roof, you end up with about an R-56 working value in your roof and an R-28.5 working value in your walls."

Since all the pieces are pre-manufactured, there's no cutting to do on site, which results in minimal waste. "We're using recycled steel for the construction instead of wood so there's no deforestation that ties in with it," adds Brady.

All pieces of a BONE Structure are labelled and pre-engineered, such as this cross-bracing, enabling precise and quick assembly.



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The spray foam insulation, making an R-28.5 thermal barrier, can be seen before the exterior finish is applied. Any exterior finish can then be used.



Advantages

"Integrating your electrical and mechanical to the system works really well," says Brady. "The floor joists have circles cut into them so you never have to put bulkheads in. You don't have to drill holes in all of your studs in your exterior walls to run your electrical and you can run your plumbing in your exterior walls as well because they're insulated on the outside. You don't have to worry about your pipes freezing."

The strength of steel adds design flexibility and convenience. "You can do some large, clear spans," says Brady, noting that it can accommodate up to a 25 by 10 foot opening for large windows. Although such spans are possible in a wood-framed house, Brady says it requires the incorporation of steel into the wood frame, which can result in thermal breaks and lost R-values. The ➤


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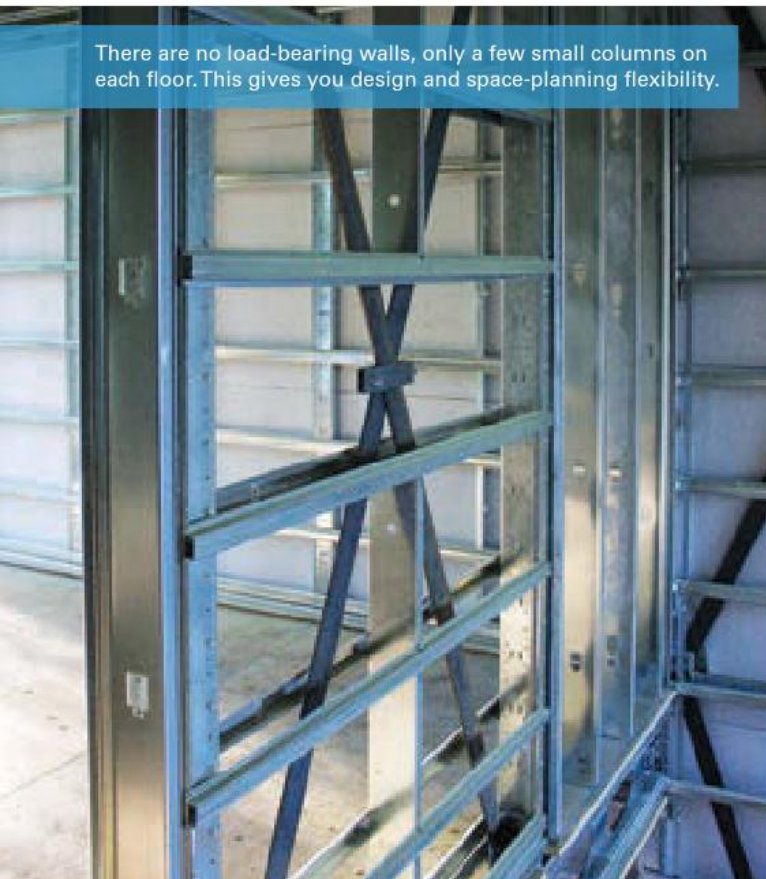
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There are no load-bearing walls, only a few small columns on each floor. This gives you design and space-planning flexibility.



steel construction also means there are no load bearing walls, making this system conducive to open-concept designs.

Steel doesn't burn, rot or rust. It also won't harbour mould, which can cause health issues.

Disadvantages

In general, a BONE Structure home will cost up to 10 per cent more than a typical wood-framed house from start to finish. However, Brady adds, "If you're trying to meet the same level of R-values, the same kind of quality control as far as straightness of your lumber, and if you do the same type of spans, you're going to be looking at the same cost."

Commercial Quality, Residential Application

Ultimately, BONE Structure is a commercial quality, high-end

residential build, says Brady. Although the Temperance project is the first entry into Saskatoon, the homes can be found across Canada and in California, the majority of them in Ontario and Quebec. The speedy assembly is ideal for building at the lake or outside the city because it helps keep transportation and housing costs for tradespeople to a minimum.

"We do a lot of commercial work," says Brady, in regards to Aspect's parent company, Con-Tech General Contractors. "In the commercial world lots of things are very well engineered and well designed so we don't want to build homes that are just slapped together. We want to do projects that are architecturally distinguished, ones that are unique for the people who are going to be living in them." 

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Dave Cummine has always marched to the beat of his own drum.

As a young man, he worked as a musician, playing drums in bands in Toronto and Vancouver, and touring in

the States. For the past 18 years, he has played drums for Saskatoon's Kashmir, a Led Zeppelin tribute band, and today he builds unique furniture out of discarded drums.

Through his business, DC's

Wood'N'Lock, he creates one-of-a-kind woodworking pieces, such as the drum furniture, but also jewelry boxes, pet urns and anything else that strikes his fancy.

He's in the process of turning

a 1920s Philco radio cabinet into a wine server, and he just finished turning a 1913 upright Player piano into a sofa table that can double as a desk.

"[The client] was moving off the farm and down- ➤



Dave's drum pieces run in the \$100 range. Interested in talking to Dave about a project? Search Wood'N'Lock on Facebook.



Dave Cummine pointing out some of the details of his upcycled piano piece.

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sizing, and she couldn't take this piano with her, but it was a family heirloom," says Dave. "I understand they're big and bulky and heavy and not everyone wants to move them all the time, but it breaks my heart to see them go to the dump. That's why I jumped at the chance to do this one for this lady who was downsizing. I love the storyline, I love the provenance behind the stuff like that, the history."

A big object like a piano is not easy to dismantle, and not all of the parts can be used

again, but the pieces that do make it into the new object are always of fine quality. He has the piano keys waiting for a future use, whenever inspiration hits.

Making the Old New Again

Work like this is called "upcycling," reusing materials in a way that creates an object with a higher value than the original. Dave has worked with other upcycle artists through a Saskatoon group called Remix; their shabby-chic work features furniture,



When a woman moved and couldn't take the family's worn out yet still heirloom piano with her, Dave created a new life for it in a form she could accommodate in her new home. The keys are saved for a future project.

jewelry and items less easy to define, like a retro television set turned into a cat bed.

One of the artists in the group is a blacksmith, so Dave will be learning the trade from her in the near future. He expects the skill will come in handy when he needs to make hardware for his own pieces.

When upcycling, Dave tries to use as much of the original hardware as possible, preserving the patina and age of the components. He also doesn't like to paint over the wood; if he can, he prefers

to bring out the natural grain with sanding and staining. The result of these choices gives his work an antique look with a folk art sensibility.

While Dave says he doesn't like titles, when pressed, he calls himself a "repurposer" rather than an artist.

"I take drums that nobody wants and nobody will play for whatever reason... and that doesn't mean you can't still make them into something. They can have a second life as a piece of furniture."

Old drums are found ➤





Dave's next project—a wine server from this 1930's Westinghouse radio cabinet.

stowed away in garages, forgotten in back yards, or at bottom prices at garage sales. Friends bring him drums and other music related item, or he finds them himself, and

he squirrels them away for a future project when the time is right, and inspiration strikes. 

Ashleigh Mattern

A SPECIAL CONNECTION TO MR. HOCKEY

Dave has made his own mark in Saskatoon, but his other claim to fame is his connection to Mr. Hockey himself, Gordie Howe.

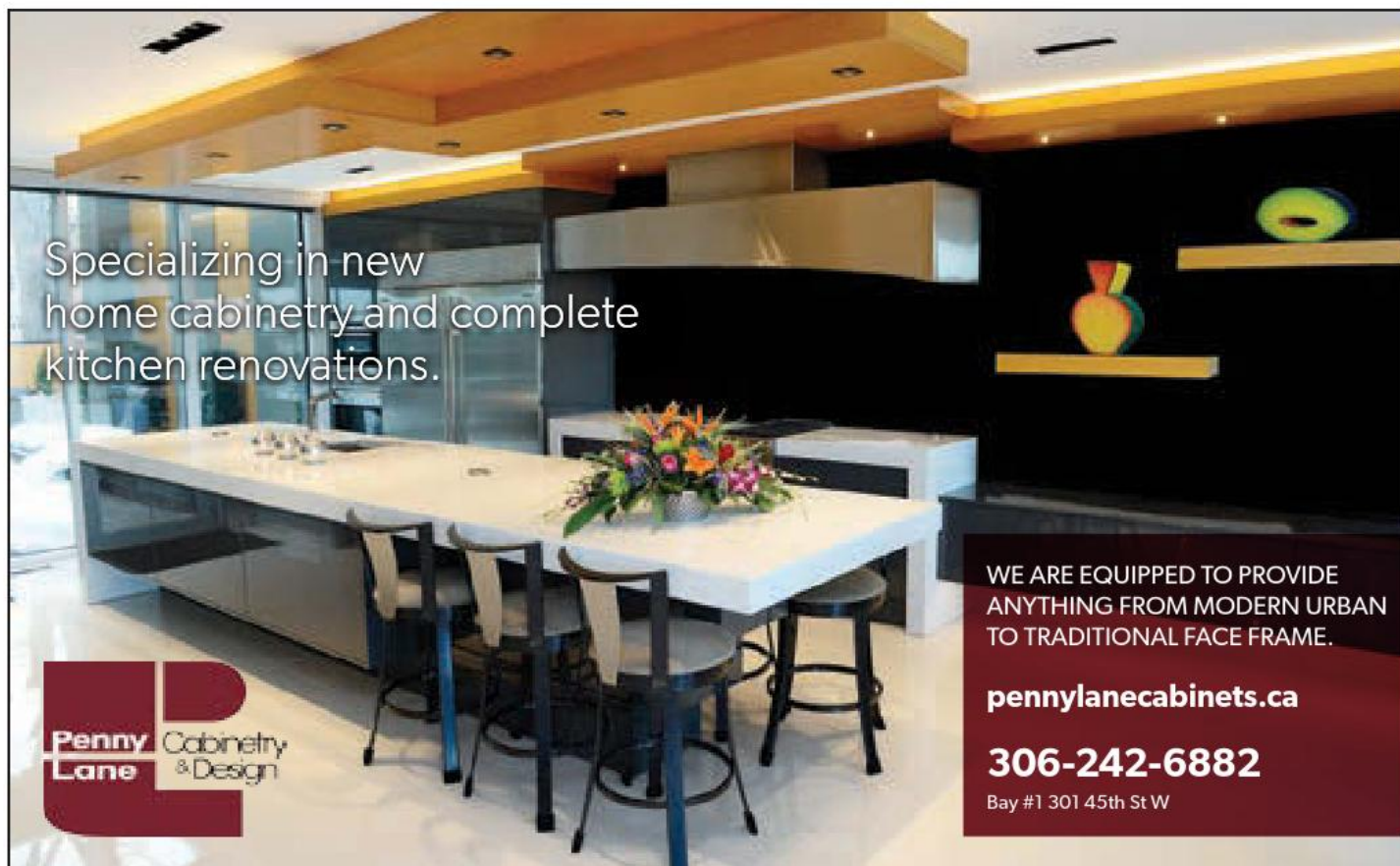
Born in Floral, SK, and raised in Saskatoon, Howe is considered one of the greatest hockey players of all time. Mr. Hockey is Dave's uncle (his mother's brother).

Howe had moved to Detroit by the time Dave was born, and Dave never did get to see Howe play, but he has stayed in touch with his uncle over the years.

Most recently, Dave saw his uncle at a tribute dinner held in Saskatoon, with sports stars like Brett Hull and Wayne Gretzky in attendance. It was Howe's first public appearance since suffering a series of strokes, and was likely the 86-year-old's last visit to Saskatoon.

Dave is proud of his uncle's accomplishments, and loves that Howe is being recognized through the naming of the planned bridge connecting Detroit and Windsor. The Gordie Howe International Bridge is expected to be completed in 2020.

"That's pretty outstanding," says Dave.



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TIMELESS TREASURES

Antiques Hidden in Plain Sight

When Orest and Marion Murawsky wrapped up careers as educators and once again opened an antique store, they imagined buying trips back east, to the U.S. and Europe. So far, their passports are still in the drawer. From 'smalls' to larger stuff, their biggest

surprise was finding so many rare and valuable treasures right here at home. The biggest reward is being given the story behind each piece.

What Goes Around

"Every day a surprise walks through the door," says Orest.

The Murawskys owned antique stores in the 1970s and 80s. Their new venture, The Indefinite Article, has only been open a year in downtown Saskatoon, and there's no shortage of local finds. They're seeing some old familiar faces, too.

"A lot of people we see,

including those wonderful customers we had 40 years ago, are now in their 70s and 80s," Orest says. "They're downsizing, getting rid of houses and condos. They're moving to the coast, maybe into assisted living. Many adult children simply aren't inter-



KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER

ested in what their parents have collected, so back it comes to us."

Toontown Treasures

Pioneers arriving in Saskatoon by horse and wagon didn't have a moving van following close behind. But

their determination to set up normal housekeeping on the prairies was evidenced by what they managed to bring with them.

"You'd be surprised what people brought from the States or from down east," says Orest. "In those days, a

bride's dowry that might have included high end furniture like Stickley, Gowan, Bernhardt and, ironically, Murawsky Furniture Company pieces from Kitchener, all brought from eastern Canada. They could really pack a lot in a wagon."

Ornate items like large grandfather clocks, chests, oak roll top desks, furniture, pianos, signed glass and rare pieces of jewellery often accompanied pioneers or were shipped later by train once settlers homesteaded.

The variety, quality, rarity and uniqueness of many items that turn up in and near Saskatoon is remarkable, say the Murawskys. While wooden furniture from Europe is often prone to cracking in dry prairie conditions, Canadian-made products withstand the elements and are often still in pristine condition. Vintage

commercial coffee grinders, light fixtures, weigh scales, an ophthalmometer, even a century-old commercial mangle, all from long-gone Saskatoon businesses, have surfaced. Industrial and commercial equipment from decades ago are now enjoying new popularity as 'steampunk.'

With some rare exceptions, most of the pieces the Murawskys come by are in estate auctions and private sales. Not many items are still found in barns, granaries or attic nooks and crannies.

"In the 1970s and 1980s, old farms were ransacked and stripped of anything valuable," says Orest. "So what we find nowadays is usually something that's been used in the home or appreciated as a collectible. It's exciting, though, when someone discovers something behind the wall or in Grandma's basement." ➤

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SG IIII CANADA



Recently, the Murawskys bought several items from a woman whose mother had lived in Saskatoon in the same house for 75 years. She was a nurse in Europe during WWII and amongst her possessions was an 1890 amethyst cameo, now valued up to \$1,000. It was purchased on March 18, 1945, and included in the box was a handwritten note, in French. Printed

on the inside of the lid, We Shall Be Free Again, a hopeful wish from the antique dealer that the war would soon end—which it did, two months later.

"It just gave me chills to see it," says Marion. "That's what makes collecting so exciting! We never know what's going to come our way, but there's no need to travel very far to find some wonderful items."

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THE FIRST "INDEFINITE ARTICLE"

Saskatoon collector John McGowan was an icon in the local antique business. The Indefinite Article, his packed-to-the-rafters storefront on Victoria Avenue, was well known by dealers, collectors and pickers. When the 93-year-old building was demolished in 2005, John moved into the new space built beside Homestead Ice Cream, and changed the name to McGowan's Old Wares. John, longtime friend of the Murawskys and godfather to their son Graham, "lived and breathed antiques" to the end. He did his last appraisal three days before he died at the age of 80 in 2013. As executor of the estate, Orest handled all that John had collected for over 50 years. It took months and a "once in a lifetime" auction, but all was sold. John encouraged the Murawskys to call their store by the same name.

Capturing Canadiana

The Murawskys keep a sharp eye out for items that "capture the makeup of early Saskatchewan," says Orest. Items that represent significant periods and events like the fur trade, homesteading, farming, the railroad and the various ethnic groups that settled here, turn up to their delight. "To us, it's a way of preserving the history of the pioneer era and the migration of different ethnic groups."

With a focus on Ukrainian, Mennonite, First Nations and Metis, and Doukhobor items, Orest and Marion relish finds by furniture makers and artisans, handmade items that represent the Saskatchewan mosaic.

"When people started buying from Sears and Eaton's catalogues, they simply got rid of a lot of the handcrafted things. In fact, people would take their handmade items, pile them up and burn them. Those early pieces from the catalogue are considered antiques today, but they were factory made. The folk art and pieces that people would make themselves in the late 1800s or early 1900s are really rare now," Orest explains.

Preserving the Stories

"As educators for over 40 years, we really enjoy helping people learn about what they have," Orest explains. "Whenever we find handwritten notes from a grandmother or some documentation, we try to keep that with the pieces because it adds to the story. It's helpful when there's some sort of record, where it came from, and who bought it when."

Marion agrees. "We're not always out there to buy. In fact, we encourage people to keep items once they find out what they really have."

Recently, a woman brought in jewellery, confessing she had always let her children play dress-up with it when they were young. Now she was curious about its origin. It turned out to be very rare Sherman, made in the 1930s, and worth over \$1,000.

"She was thrilled with that news," Marion says. "When owners connect to a piece and have a better understanding of its history and value, many will decide to keep it in the family. We're quite happy when that happens."

When people come in who have no family or relatives with no interest in antiques, Marion says, "it's more like we're adopting than buying. They want to make sure the story goes along with it. We're always fascinated by the history of each piece and how it came to be in Saskatoon."

Just a Few Intriguing and Rare Local Finds:

- A Roaring Twenties flapper doll with cigarette, created to celebrate women's emancipation
- Doukhobor early 1900s folk art picture frames, carved lap desk with bird motif
- Pair of Model M 110 WWI trench phones
- 1920s surgical lamp used as lighting in Saskatoon barber shop
- Metis "Batoche" painted pantry cupboard, early 1900s

- Arthur Pequegnat clock collections
- Treaty 4 Indian Agent Medical supply trunk, 1880s
- 1832 amethyst cameo purchased in France in 1945, brought here at end of WWII
- Hand painted 1920s Turret Cigarette advertising sign from a pool room
- 1861 rare American Waltham Watch Co. clock in mahogany case
- Early 1900s CNR station agent's desk, telegraph and clocks
- CFQC Radio cityscape 1970s metal advertising sign with reverse side election ad for Ray Hnatyshyn
- Ophthalmometer from 1900 used by an early Saskatoon optometrist
- 1960s cursive Hermes typewriter in case (H)

Karin Melberg Schwier



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How do you spell perogy? You can see how I spell it, but I'm sure a spirited argument could break out between that spelling and variations like perogi, pierogy, pyrohy, pyrogy and many more. However, most of us can agree that perogies are a simple, but delicious treat. We tend to think of these dumplings of unleavened dough as a Saskatchewan

thing, but the truth is, they are huge worldwide.

While dumplings are found throughout Eurasia, everything from the Japanese gyoza to the Italian ravioli, an actual 'pierogi' is of Polish background, with variations like the Russian pelmeni or the Ukrainian varenyky. In some regions of Ukraine, the words pierogi and pirozhki would refer

to baked pies and buns, not dumplings. But Canadian Ukrainians call them perogies because many of them came from a part of Ukraine where local dialects had a lot of words in common with Polish, Romanian, German and other Central European languages.

I can see by Nadine's family cookbook that contains her mother's recipe, they refer

to their varenyky as 'pyrohy.'

Nadine is a Baba who has a successful homemade perogy and catering business. So successful in fact, that she doesn't want her full name used because she's already busy enough. I've had to disguise names in hard-hitting journalistic articles before, but never because someone's perogies are too good. ➤



The most people she's ever catered for was 416, which is a lot of perogies and cabbage rolls. She has nine freezers in her house, two of them for cabbage alone. Baba Nadine has been making perogies professionally for almost 20 years. She learned as a girl on the farm near Vonda, Saskatchewan, using a recipe that has been handed down for generations.

"My mother taught me," says Baba Nadine. "We ate perogies a lot on the farm. I was raised on the farm. We milked cows, we had cream, we had everything. My Mom basically only went to the store for a few different things. We had our own chicken, potatoes, we had everything. And we had perogies all the time."

Baba Nadine sets out to teach me how to make her

famous perogies, using a batch of dough she has prepared (see recipe). As any chef knows, simple is harder than people think. When there's no complexity to hide behind, you stand alone with your flavours and textures. Like anything else, it takes practice over time.

"When I first got married, nothing turned out for me," Nadine says. "They were hard as rock, I could have killed

somebody with my stuff. But as the years went on, I practiced and it was okay."

The dough is incredibly soft. We roll it out with a bit of flour and she uses a cup to cut out circles that are about two inches in diameter. We lay the circles out on a tea towel for use in a moment.

Now you're ready for the filling. We're just using potato and cheese, though Nadine

PEROGY DOUGH

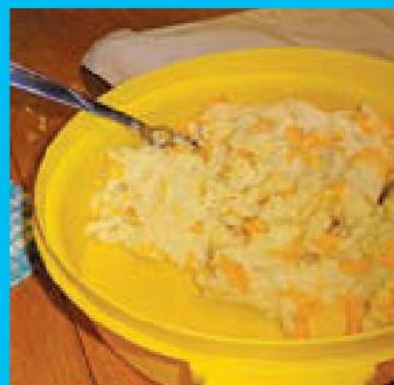
5 cups flour
2.5 cups water
1/8 cup oil
Dash of salt



Mix all ingredients together and roll it out. Add flour to the surface so the dough doesn't stick.

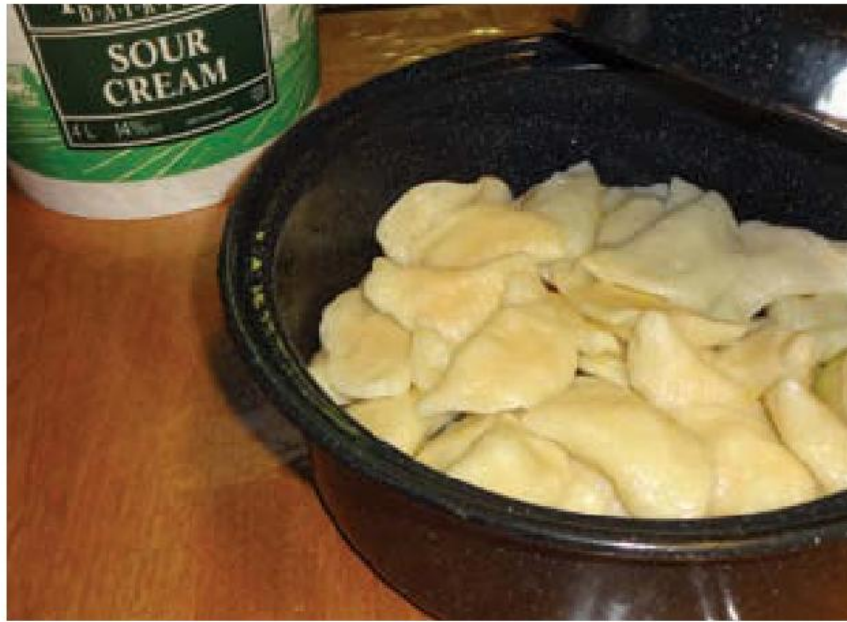
PEROGY FILLING

5 – 6 large potatoes
Salt and pepper to taste
Dash of milk
Other fillings as desired (cheese, bacon, sauerkraut, cottage cheese, etc.)



Mash potatoes and add other flavours as desired. Mix together. Add dashes of milk to make mixture the consistency of traditional mashed potatoes.

Follow the directions in the article for further instruction. Makes about 7-8 dozen perogies depending on the size and thickness.



tells me she's seen them filled with everything from sauerkraut to cottage cheese.

"I try anything," she says. "I don't mind trying. Some of the stuff I love. The only thing I won't touch is cottage cheese. My mother used to make it on the farm, tons of it, and sell it to people in Saskatoon. That wasn't a nice smell. And when you get raised with making that stuff, who in the heck wants

to eat it?"

A little trick she shows me involves taking the dough circle and flipping it in your hand, so the side that was touching the tea towel is now facing up. The reason for this is that it stays sticky, where the side that was air side up does not. This will help you in a moment.

"Take a half a spoonful of your filling and put it in the middle," says Baba Nadine.

"Be careful. Beginners always use too much. This dough will come apart when you cook them."

After this, you fold the dough over the filling from the centre. Now that sticky part comes in handy, as it grips the other side well. You pinch your way along the seam until you've got yourself a fully formed perogy.

"Hey!" she says. "You did pretty good for a beginner!"

After we've finished filling them, we put a pot of water on to boil to cook a few for tasting. You can freeze them too, but note that Baba Nadine says to make the dough a little thicker if you're going to freeze them. Thinner is okay if you're cooking them right away.

We put the perogies in the water and they bubble to the surface. Once this happens you can take them out, place them on greased cookie sheets and place them in your freezer to freeze them flat. But if you want to eat them right away you need to actually need to keep them in longer (about 4 mins), and as Nadine points out to me, you can see them getting fluffier and filling out

more. They almost double in size. If they break open in the water you have boiled them too long.

At this point she takes them out, rolls them in some oil so they don't stick together and puts them on a plate for me, with butter, onions and the biggest, Baba-sized tub of sour cream you've ever set eyes on.

I take a bite, and my eyes sort of roll back into my head as I begin to nod vigorously. I'm sure I look like a doofus. But I don't care. Baba Nadine's recipe is amazing. They taste like fresh little silken pillows, kissed with butter and sour cream. And it strikes me again; while each person brings their own technique and exacting measurements to the process, I'm tasting a bit of the past. Not only Nadine's family recipe, handed down through generations, but also the heritage of Saskatchewan itself, a little piece of the old country in the 21st century. 

Craig Silliphant

WHITE CREAM PEROGY GRAVY

- 1 can of stems & pieces mushroom
- 1 container whipping cream (2 cup size) — Dairyland brand thickens best
- 2 Tbsp flour (approximately)
- 2 Tbsp dill (fresh or frozen)

Pour whipping cream in a pot, bring to gentle boil, stirring so cream does not burn. Drain the liquid from the can of mushrooms into a side bowl. Take the above liquid from mushrooms, add sifted flour to consistency of a gravy mixture, pour slowly into cream.

Once the cream is the consistency of gravy, stir in dill and mushrooms. Add salt to taste. Simmer until the mushrooms are heated, stirring so that cream does not burn.

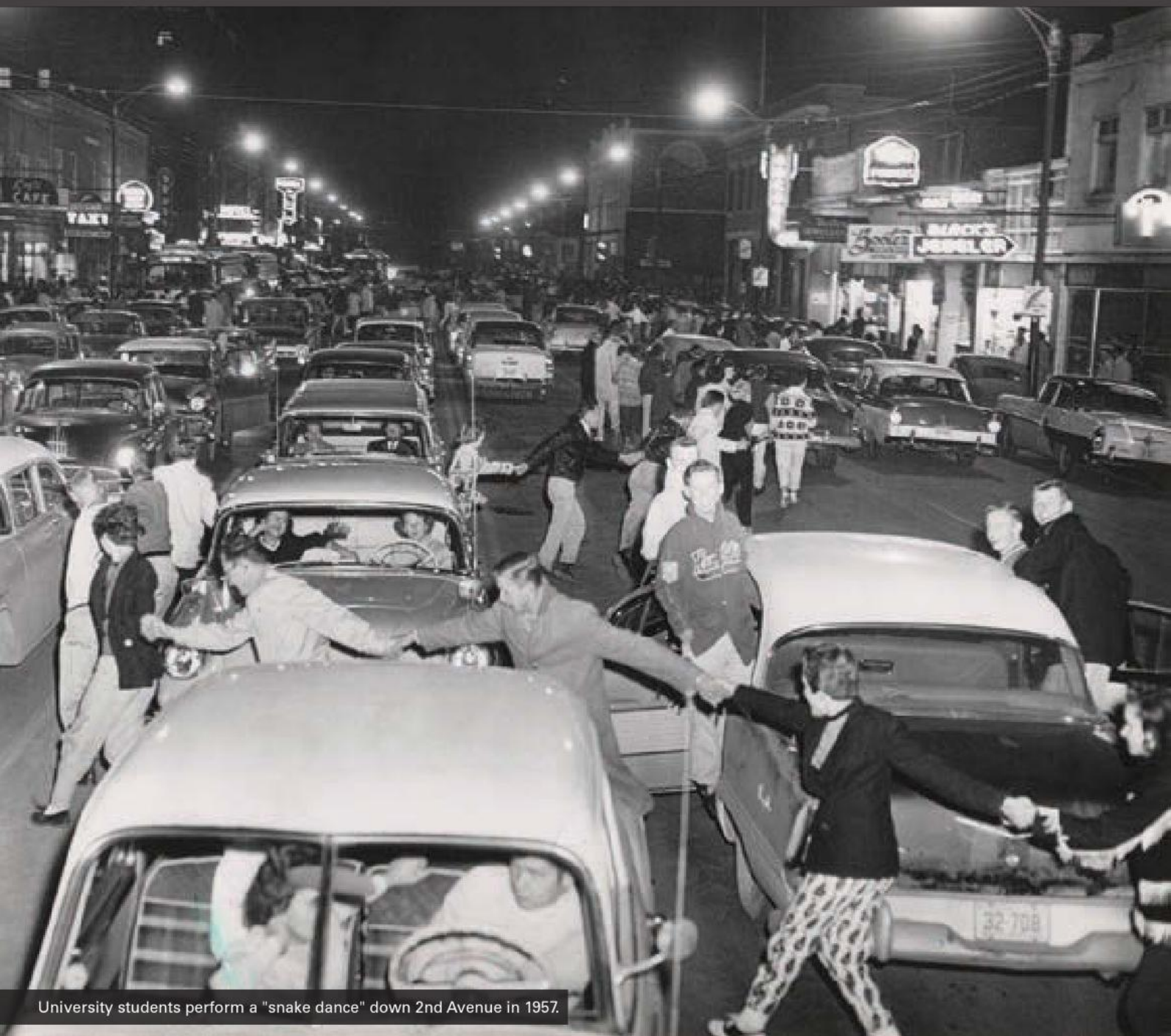
TIP: Making the gravy the day before helps to thicken the sauce, but it can be made the same day. Keep refrigerated.

Thank you to Baba Elaine Stadnyk for sharing this coveted family recipe.

HOMEtown Reflections

 JEFF O'BRIEN

HALLOWE'E'N



University students perform a "snake dance" down 2nd Avenue in 1957.

Photo: University of Saskatchewan, University Archives & Special Collections, Photograph Collection, A-6267 (taken by StarPhoenix).

Many of us remember when Hallowe'en meant hundreds of kids in costumes, the doorbell ringing non-stop and the street full of cheerful cries of "Hallowe'en apples!" and "Trick or Treat!" until long past dark. Things seem a lot quieter today. No one's keeping formal statistics that we know of, but anecdotal evidence suggests that in most neighbourhoods in Saskatoon, the Hallowe'en

noting the usual pranks having been played by small boys on Hallowe'en night. By 1912, things had picked up, with parades, pranks and parties a-plenty in Saskatoon, mostly thanks to the 200 university students who paraded noisily through downtown dressed as ghosts and stopping at the homes of local dignitaries to threaten mayhem unless appeased with a gift

"Some of the pranks they played," the newspaper noted wryly the next day, "will give less favoured men extra work this morning."

throngs of yore have been greatly reduced.

People have been celebrating Hallowe'en here for more than a century. The first mention of it we came across was in a newspaper report from 1904

of apples. "Some of the pranks they played," the newspaper noted wryly the next day, "will give less favoured men extra work this morning."

Pranking was an accepted part of the Hallowe'en ➤

OUT ON A PRANK

Students Celebrate Hallowe'en with a Picturesque Parade

Things were made lively around the city last night by the Varsity boys. About 200 of them turned out masqueraded for Hallowe'en, for the most part, representing ghosts in white attire. They marched along to the discordant tune of big sticks, a concertina, and a cracked bell. Parading second avenue, they drew by crowds and caused much merriment. Turning up 24th street to the Crescent, they surrounded the front of Hon. W. C. Sutherland's house. After making a merry noise for fifteen minutes there, they were treated to apples, and went along the Crescent to J. F. Cairns' house. Here the a.s.r. program was carried out, and the same generous treatment given to the boys. Mayor Clinkskill and other prominent citizens were also honored by a visit from the students. En route, they carried everything before them. Some of the pranks they played will give less favored men extra work this morning.

Saskatoon Star Phoenix, Nov. 1, 1912.

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tradition for many years. Things like outhouse tipping—very popular in North Park after the Second World War, apparently—window soaping, fire-cracker tossing and garbage can dumping were just part of the fun. The local gendarmes mostly looked the other way, forgiving the more boisterous displays as simple youthful exuberance.

Exuberant Pranking

Some years were more exuberant than others. In 1929, the traditional university parade was marked by vandalism, petty theft, brawling, bogus fire alarms, downtown-spanning snake dances and general disorderliness. A student was injured while helping to give a passing car “the bumps”—

lifting it bodily and dropping it back down again. When the panicked driver gunned it in reverse, the boy was run over and trapped underneath. The newspaper also reported that pranksters had laid “a quantity of ammunition on the street car tracks, causing intermittent explosions.” Luckily, “the police collected most of the cartridges in quick order, prob-

ably preventing a serious accident.” Indeed.

There was widespread property damage in 1929, including a street car derailed by railway ties, downtown store windows smashed and a car nearly wrecked when a corrugated steel culvert was rolled in front of it. Despite this, reaction to the night’s shenanigans was surprisingly muted. An angry

Trick-or-Treaters in 1965.



Photo: Local History Room – Saskatoon Public Library - QC-3612-4

Trick-or-Treaters in 1959.



Photo: Local History Room – Saskatoon Public Library - QC-1051-2

letter to City Council and a short editorial in the newspaper were the only expressions of outrage we could find. Regardless, City Council expressed its “utter disapproval of such lawlessness and wholesale destruction” and warned that in the future “Law and Order will be strictly enforced on Hallowe’en night!”

True to its word, the following year the city put every available police officer out on the streets with instructions to show no mercy. It was to be a “safe and sane” Hallowe’en—they even banned the university snake dance. It was, as the news-

paper reported somewhat disappointedly, “the dullerest Hallowe’en in years,” with no injuries or serious loss of property save for a car that had been borrowed from a garage on Lorne Avenue. Even the garbage can tippers took the night off.

Hooligan Decline

Hallowe’en hooliganism may have never again reached the levels of 1929, but it never completely went away, either. Things took a darker turn in 1956 when drivers on Spadina Crescent had their windshields broken by street light fixtures lowered on cables until they

were just a few feet above the ground (they were built to be lowered for maintenance). Two cars were damaged in this way. Miraculously, no one was hurt when the 13-pound metal and glass assemblies smashed through their windows, but an electrical crew was kept busy for most of the night locating and repairing the street lamps, and the estimated cost to the city was the value of one full day’s work for the electrical department.

One Hallowe’en trick—or possibly it was a treat—common in those days was for women to dress as men in order to sneak into the beer

parlours, which at that time were men-only. In the residential districts, trick or treating was, of course, a citywide practice, with armies of the little ones going door to door begging for apples and penny candy.

Changing Neighbourhoods

Today, Hallowe’en in Saskatoon is much quieter. The habit of pranking seems to have fallen mostly out of fashion and we tend to save our riotous impulses for the aftermath of sporting events. But even the practice of trick-or-treating seems to be on the decline. In neighbourhoods as dispa- ➤



Haunted House, ca. 1971.

Photo: Local History Room - Saskatoon Public Library - QC-5182

rate as Riversdale and Nutana, Confederation, Wildwood and Silverwood, people report numbers of trick-or-treaters averaging within about the 10-35 range; abysmally low

compared to years gone by.

Part of the problem may be apathy. Perhaps young people today no longer feel the need to race around in the hopes of assembling a hoard

of candy large enough to last until Christmas. But there is a demographic element as well. Simply put, children grow up and move out. And while neighbourhoods renew

themselves eventually, children today make up a much smaller percentage of the city's population than they once did.

Neighbourhoods like Brevoort Park, say, or



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Greystone Heights in 1965.



Photo: by Leonard Hillyard - Local History Room - Saskatoon Public Library - B-356

Greystone—built in the 1950s and '60s to accommodate Saskatoon's spectacular growth after the Second World War—saw their populations drop precipitously as the children of the post-war baby boom grew up. Completed in 1966, Brevoort Park hit 4,900 in 1971—its highest ever. But by 1981, the population had dropped by 18 per cent, and it continued to decline thereafter, finally bottoming out at 3,250 in 2006. On the other side of 8th Street, Greystone Heights followed a similar pattern except for five years sooner, reflecting the fact that it is slightly older than Brevoort.

Today, those numbers are on the upswing as new families with young children gradually replace the older inhabitants. But there are fewer children in Brevoort and Greystone today than 40 years ago. During the baby boom, the average number of children per woman was 3.7. Today it is less than half that. So despite the significant growth in Saskatoon in recent years, it seems unlikely that the city's older neighbourhoods will ever hear the pitter patter of little feet to the extent they did back in the 1950s, '60s and '70s.

There are other factors, of course. While the age of a neighbourhood is clearly ➤




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Trick-or-Treaters being interviewed by CFQC reporters in 1959.



Photo: Local History Room – Saskatoon Public Library - QC-1051-1

relevant, affordability will also help determine the number and size of young families, and thus the number of children who'll come banging on your door demanding treats. As well, parents today will often take younger children down to the shopping malls rather than brave the cold to come knock at your door.

On the other hand, for nearly two decades, one of our own Saskatoon HOME writers had an elaborate and highly anticipated haunted house (with University Drive neighbourhood approval), complete with horror movie film clips in the window, a screaming and moaning soundtrack, a graveyard with torches, skeletons, fog, flying bats and a murder of crows. She and her husband dressed as deceased newlyweds; their son handed out candy as Igor. She says a couple of Hallowe'ens ago,

styles that inspire

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HALLOWEEN OR HALLOWE'EN?

In the traditional Christian calendar, November 1 is All Saints Day, or, as it was once called All Hallows Day, from "hallow"—an Old English word meaning holy in the sense of a holy person or saint. By the early 1700s, the night before had come to be called All Hallows Even, which was later shortened to Hallowe'en. This is still a correct spelling although in recent years the apostrophe has been dropped, making it simply "Halloween."

they lost count around the 500-kid mark. And houses on Saskatchewan Crescent—an area not known for its large youth cohort—still routinely get 200 or more children who are driven in from other parts of the city.

But the news isn't all bad. In newer neighbourhoods, the numbers seem to be higher. People we talked to in Stonebridge, for example, reported getting 100 or more trick-or-treaters last Hallowe'en. So

it's possible that although the traditional practice of wandering the neighbourhood demanding candy seems to be in a general state of decline, there may yet be hope for Hallowe'en, out there in the new suburbs presently a-building on Saskatoon's far frontiers. **H**

Jeff O'Brien

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 JULIE BARNES

TREE ROOTS VS. SEWER LINES

How to Avoid a Pain in the Drain

Every year, the City of Saskatoon fields hundreds of calls about our urban trees. Sometimes it's a complaint about a surfeit of leaves clogging a homeowner's eavestroughs. Other times it's about roots causing a sidewalk to heave. Occasionally, it's an issue with roots worming their way into a sewer line and causing a blockage.

"The roots of trees simply do what roots naturally do, which

is take advantage of a situation that provides the perfect mix of air, moisture and nutrients," says Michelle Chartier, a parks division superintendent with the City of Saskatoon. "We generally approach these inquiries from the perspective that the root cause—no pun intended—is a leak in the sewer line."

The City doesn't remove trees based on complaints about sewer line root intrusion. "We don't remove healthy

trees," says Michelle. "We don't actively cull those trees unless they meet certain criteria for removal." One rare example of when a tree may be removed is if the City can't access the curb box safely. The underground box contains the valve that controls municipal water delivery to the home.

Material Modifications

The original sewer pipes in Saskatoon consisted of clay

tile, which came in two- to four-foot sections. Between the mid-1940s and the late 1950s, fibre pipe was installed as an alternative to clay tile. In the early 1970s, PVC piping began to be installed, and it is still used today.

PVC piping comes in longer lengths than the original clay tile. This extra length is key in preventing root intrusion, as roots tend to enter where sections of pipe join together.



This liner fills in missing sections of pipe and can be applied to any material.

Photo: Courtesy Culebra

The lengths of PVC have a bell and spigot system, giving them a tight connection that's sealed with a rubber gasket. Root intrusion can still happen, but it's considerably more rare than with clay tile.

Warning Signs

When a sewer blockage occurs, "there's always a sound that will come, a bubbling or gurgling sound from the floor drain in the basement," says Harold Torres, owner of Culebra Sewer and Water Works Corporation. Often, the warning signs occur when a washing machine is in use or tub is drained; the volume of water is substantial enough to fill the sewer pipe to a point where it comes out of the lowest opening in the system. There may be a wet area around the basement

floor drain.

"Homeowners who have this recurring problem know that this is what's happening and stop using water," says Harold. "Some homeowners, if they move into a new house with a root problem, will hear the sound but they keep using water. A day or two later, they have a sewage backup in their basement."

"It might not be root intrusion," Harold adds. "It might be a blockage in the system. At that point it's unknown whether it's under the floor or outside the house."

Understanding Responsibility

The City provides an emergency sanitary sewer maintenance service to residents, which includes all work necessary to clear blockages.



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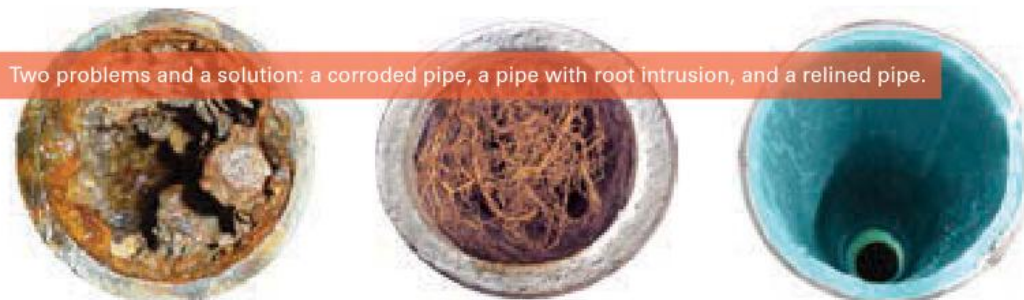
However, this is an emergency service (not for preventative maintenance) provided on a first-call, first-served basis. There is no cost to the homeowner if they call Public Works and wait in the queue. If the homeowner chooses to call

a contractor directly, they are responsible for the costs. The homeowner owns the portion between the home and the property line and the City owns it from the property line to the main line in the street.

To reach the City's Utility Services Department emergency line call 306-975-2476.

Prevention

"We have lots of clients we do preventative maintenance for. They prefer to call us before the backup happens; it saves money and damages," says Harold. "If you don't do ➤



Two problems and a solution: a corroded pipe, a pipe with root intrusion, and a relined pipe.

Photos: Courtesy Culebra

A peak inside a relined clay tile pipe.



Photo: Courtesy Culebra

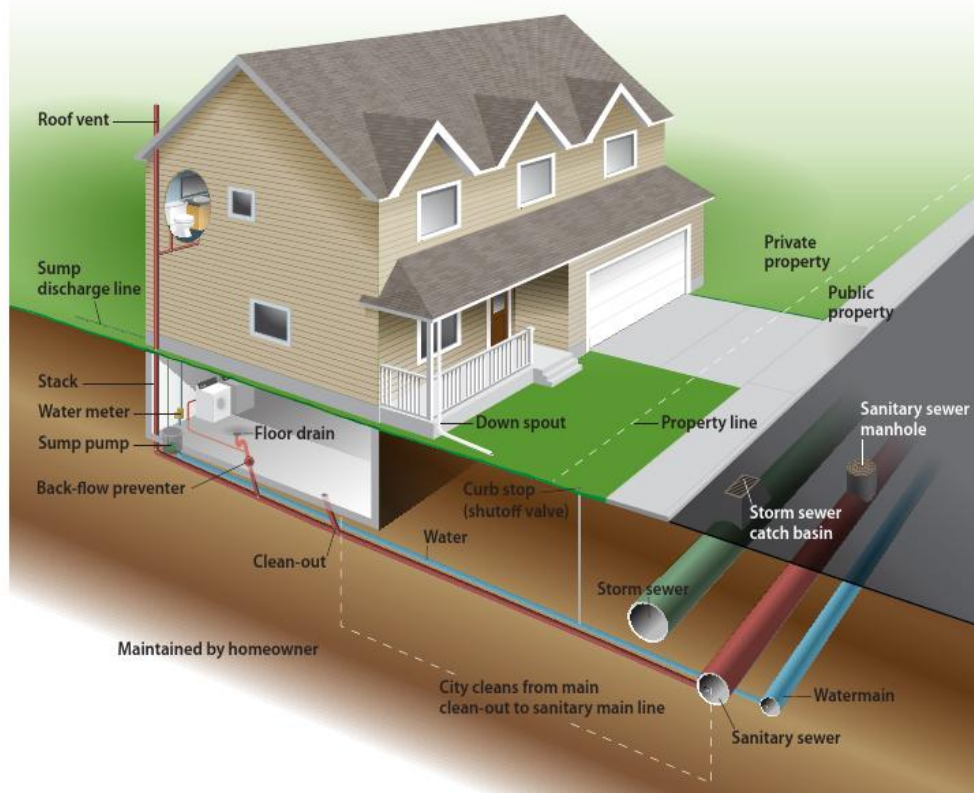


Diagram: City of Saskatoon

anything about it and you wait until you have a backup, then you may have to go through an insurance claim and you may have a big mess to clean up and damage in your basement."

Sewer relining is a permanent solution and preventative measure for homes in older neighbourhoods that still have clay pipes. "We video inspect the line," says Harold. This inspection provides Culebra with the diameter and length of the pipe so they can provide a

quote. New technology means the relining can be completed in four hours. The liner consists of a durable, patented epoxy. Once cured, the liner becomes part of the pipe itself. "It's beneficial because the liner starts inside the house and runs all the way to the sanitary main line, leaving no gaps. There's no construction and no digging," adds Harold.

Before hiring a company, it's important to contact the City to make sure the connection

is a candidate for relining and to ensure you're working with a licensed water and sewer contractor.

Careful planting on private property also plays a role. Existing infrastructure (under and above ground) and the mature height and size of the tree should be considered before selecting the species and the planting location.

Pros Outweigh Cons

Although it's no easy feat to

maintain city trees, Michelle explains that many of them will outlive the infrastructure they may impact from time to time. "We try to find a way to preserve trees as long as we can," she says. "People have a love-hate relationship with trees in our city, but there's research showing that the benefits of trees outweigh the costs. There's a tradeoff to having an urban forest." 

Julie Barnes



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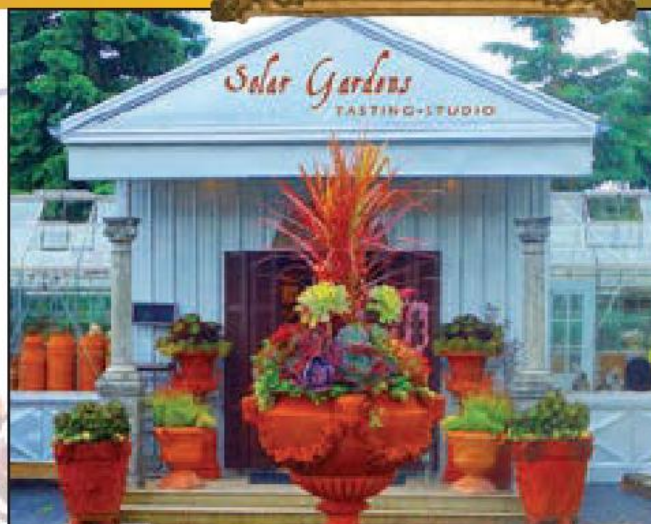
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